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OPINION METER

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Inos more inclined now to ink casino bill

» Specific proposed changes being finalized
» Tinian mayor asks for public hearing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos emerged late yesterday afternoon from a closed-door meeting with lawmakers more inclined than before to approve a Saipan casino bill because the agreed upon proposed amendments—if and when the measure is signed—have addressed his, the public, and lawmakers' concerns.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Senators and House members take a short break from a closed-door meeting with Gov. Eloy S. Inos on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon to go over proposed amendments to a Saipan casino bill, should the governor sign the measure. In photo are, counterclockwise, Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Senate vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) and Sen. Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian).

Acquitted businessman arrested in PH for alleged online prostitution

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Takayuki Umeda, a Japanese businessman who was acquitted on Saipan in 2005 on charges of employing illegal aliens and exploiting a minor exotic dancer, was arrested with six other persons in the Philippines on Monday for alleged human trafficking.

According to news reports in Manila, Philippine authorities arrested three Japanese nationals, including Umeda, and four Filipinos, during a raid on an English learning school in Pangasinan, which reportedly was used as a front for an online dating ser-

vice for foreigners.

The raiding team reportedly seized from the Kame Hachi Corp. various equipment such as six laptops, 55 units of desktops, and 44 sets of CPUs that were used by the group in their operation.

The learning center's female Filipino employees were allegedly used to entice older Japanese men to go to the country for sex in exchange for money.

In May 2005, a CNMI Superior Court jury acquitted Umeda and Club Micronesia of all 18 charges. The court also dismissed two counts of unlawful exploitation against Umeda and the

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BASED ON NEWLY RELEASED DOCUMENTS FROM CLINTON WHITE HOUSE

Clinton admin tried to stop NMI from having a delegate in 1994

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

to endorse giving the CNMI a congressional delegate at this time."

A Sept. 20, 1994, note from the Clinton White House listed these reasons as politics or "congressional perspective," "problems in the CNMI" related to human rights and labor conditions, and the CNMI's "small population" of some 65,000 at the time, "only 23,000 of whom are U.S. citizens."

In that 1994 note, then President Bill Clinton

See CLINTON on Page 4

A portion of nearly 300 pages of Clinton White House documents relating to the CNMI that were released only recently suggests that the CNMI could have voted for its first nonvoting delegate to Congress much earlier than November 2008, perhaps some 20 years ago. In 1994, presidential aides cited three reasons for the Clinton administration "not

» Kilili: Over 30-year wait for CNMI to get House seat not unprecedented



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Local

Frances Quichocho completes her testimony; parties rest

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Frances Quichocho finally completed her testimony yesterday in federal court, allowing the parties in the racketeering lawsuit filed by Jung Ja Kim against Frances and her husband, attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, to rest their cases.

After Kim's counsel, attorney Colin Thompson, finished cross-examining Frances, Thompson and co-counsel Robert T. Torres called Kim back to the witness stand. After Kim's testimony, both sides rested at 3:45pm.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona instructed the jurors to return today, Wednesday, at 10am, for closing arguments.

During yesterday's continuation of Thompson's cross-examination, Frances maintained that she is the sole owner of Latte Stone LLC, which used to operate the Latte Stone Poker on Rota.

Kim claimed that she formed Latte Stone LLC in October 2008 upon Ramon Quichocho's advice, and had it registered under Frances' name.

When shown a copy of Latte Stone's tax return where Frances apparently underreported its total revenue, Frances said she was just following the figures that Kim provided her.

"I followed what Kim taught me," she said.

Frances agreed with Thompson that Latte Stone's gross revenue was \$690,000, but only \$339,000 was deposited in the

company's bank account.

She said a lot of cash was taken from the company for business and personal expenses. She said she's unsure how much was pulled out for personal expenses.

Frances said she reimbursed Kim for her expenses at Latte Stone whenever she received receipts from her.

When shown several checks, including \$40,000, that were deposited either to her personal bank account or her joint account with her husband, Frances could not remember the source of the money—whether they came from Latte Stone or from her husband's law firm.

Thompson also showed three checks totaling \$31,000 that were deposited into the couple's joint account three days in a row. Frances said she does not

remember the source of the income, whether from Latte Stone or from the law firm.

Frances admitted that she took money from Latte Stone and donated them to close friends and relatives.

She said she was not sure whether she paid her daughter's tuition out of Latte Stone's account. Thompson then presented several checks that Frances paid for her daughter for tuition out of Latte Stone's account. She then admitted the payments.

Frances also admitted she paid all their phone billings and the salary of their then-houseworker out of Latte Stone's account. She acknowledged donating money to Rep. Janet Maratita (Cov-Saipan), Felipe Atalig, and several others as donations or gifts out of Latte

Stone's account.

Frances admitted, among other payments, that she paid her personal loan at Isla Financial Service out of Latte Stone's account.

Frances reiterated her earlier testimony that she deceived Kim by pretending to be Ramon Quichocho in the chats to figure out whether her husband and Kim were having an affair.

On attorney Michael Dotts' questioning, Frances said she paid \$50,000 check to Kim for Latte Stone's five poker machines and then \$50,000 cash for the other five poker machines.

Dotts is counsel for Frances and the Quichocho law firm.

Frances said that Kim was supposed to be reimbursed for her \$168,000 contribution to Tan Dingo LLC, but she did not confirm her membership and kept the revenues of the company.

Kim claimed that she purchased in April 2008 Tan Dingo LLC that the Quichochos and Joaquin Atalig formed. The company also operated a poker business.

Kim testified that when Frances and Ramon Quichocho returned from their "reconciliation trip" in the Philippines in February 2009, Ramon Quichocho did not stop communicating with her.

Torres showed her a copy of a long chat dated Feb. 20, 2009. Kim recognized it as Ramon Quichocho's chat with her after

the Philippine trip. In that chat, Kim said Ramon Quichocho stated, among other things, that he loves her and misses her.

On the harassment allegations that the Quichochos complained about, Kim admitted she installed a surveillance camera on the second floor of her leased building to protect her assets and that she actually saw, through the surveillance camera, that it was Frances who was breaking the flower plots by kicking them near the stairs.

Torres asked Kim if the Quichochos ever told her that she was interfering in their marital relationship and she replied "no."

"I'm the one who got harmed. I was harmed emotionally and financially. Ray and Frances shattered my trust," Kim said.

Dotts showed chats between Kim and Ramon Quichocho dated Dec. 11, 2008, a day after Ramon allegedly raped her in his apartment unit. Dotts pointed out that in that chat Kim was laughing with her "rapist."

"Yes, it's correct," said Kim, and disclosed that after that rape incident, she and Ramon Quichocho actually proceeded to Godfather's that night for some drinks, then they had consensual sex.

Kim earlier also testified that Ramon Quichocho raped her at a Guam hotel and had consensual sex with him in his car, and that she and the Quichochos had a threesome twice.

Ramon Quichocho denies having sex with Kim.

Tourist allegedly traumatized by rob try

A female Japanese tourist was injured when she struggled with a man who allegedly grabbed her purse as she was walking with her husband near the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan last week.

The tourist's husband chased the suspect, Delwin Max Kadi-sang, 39, who was subsequently arrested by pursuing police officers behind the 99 Cents Store in Garapan.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$30,000 cash bail for Kadi-sang's temporary release on charges of attempted robbery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Camacho allowed the government to take the deposition of the two tourists in a courtroom on Friday afternoon. Deposition is the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

The female tourist sustained bruises during the struggle and appeared traumatized. *Saipan Tribune* saw her crying beside Japan Consulate officials out-

side the courtroom Friday afternoon.

Kadi-sang is represented by assistant public defender Eden Schwartz.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that police officers were dispatched on Wednesday, March 12, at 1pm, to a purse snatching incident by the Sunleader Mart in Garapan.

The victim's husband chased the suspect who ran east behind Dollar Days. A motorist also

joined in the chase. Department of Public Safety's Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation detectives apprehended Kadi-sang behind 99 Cents Store.

The victim told police that she and her husband were walking from the Carolinian Affairs Office heading east when Kadi-sang came from behind and grabbed her purse. The victim struggled until she managed to grab her purse from Kadi-sang.

Kadi-sang ran away, but the victim's husband gave chase. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



HYDROPONIC GARDEN

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio tours a state-of-the-art hydroponic greenhouse in Kagman on Friday. Government officials joined farmer and entrepreneur Frank C. Castro, 76, at the ribbon cutting for the facility that grows pesticide-free cucumbers and tomatoes.

Governor appoints 4, extends CUC emergency

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed and re-appointed yesterday four individuals to serve on the Commonwealth Zoning Board, Commonwealth Development Authority, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The appointments were made on the same day the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations chaired by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) held a public hearing on the governor's previous appointee to the CUC board, Christopher Concepcion.

This also comes a few days after the governor extended anew the emergency declara-

tion for CUC.

Inos cited once again a lack of a functioning CUC board, technical worker crisis, and some \$20 million that the utilities agency has yet to collect from the Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and residential customers.

The amount owed CUC increased from \$18 million about a month ago, based on the governor's emergency declaration extensions.

Zoning, CDA, CUC

Inos reappointed Diego Blanco to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Zoning Board, subject to the confirmation of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

If confirmed, Blanco will serve another two-year term commencing on the date of his confirmation.

The governor also reappointed Diego M. Songao to serve on the CDA board representing Rota. His appointment requires the Senate's advice and consent.

If confirmed, Songao will serve another four-year term that will expire on May 11, 2018.

Songao served as CDA board chairman. Under the law, the CDA board chair automatically becomes a member of the CUC board.

Inos also appointed Matthew Owen Deleon Guerrero to serve also on the CDA board representing Saipan. Just like Songao's, Deleon Guerrero's ap-

pointment requires the Senate's advice and consent.

Deleon Guerrero will also serve a four-year term if confirmed.

The governor also appointed Joseph T. Torres to serve on the CUC board representing Saipan. The initial appointment requires the Senate's advice and consent. If confirmed, Torres will serve a four-year term, beginning on his confirmation date.

The Inos administration is reviving the critical CUC board of directors, nine years since the last one was abolished. Last month, acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider administered the oath of office to confirmed CUC board appointees David J. Sablan Jr. and Adelina Roberto.

CUC: Emergency rate hike in offing if standby charge is junked

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. told the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission that it will have no choice but to ask an immediate rate hike to cover its operational shortfall if the proposed standby charge for large customers is rejected by the regulating body.

CUC consultant economists.com, represented by managing directors Dan Jackson and Robert Young, made this known in their latest supplemental testi-

GOP names 6 more official bets

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Republican Party's central committee officially endorsed six more candidates. The GOP has been trying to coalesce with independents and those from other parties, that's why it has not been completing its slates for most precincts.

These include four candidates for Precinct 1, which has six seats.

As of Monday, the GOP's candidates for Precinct 1 are incumbent Rep. Richard B. Serman (R-Saipan), press secretary Angel Demapan, Customs seaport branch manager Greg M. Sablan, and Board of Parole's Joseph "Lee Pan" Tenorio Guerrero.

For Precinct 4, the Republican Party's candidate is incumbent Rep. George N. Camacho (R-Saipan).

GOP also said that its Precinct 5 candidate is incumbent Rep. Antonio "Ton Pai" Agulto (Ind-Saipan).

"Other precincts' endorsements will be provided soonest," Ivan Blanco, chairman of the GOP Central Committee's Mormon missionary dies in Micronesia

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A 20-year-old Mormon missionary is dead after a fatal fall in Micronesia.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints says Miller Edward Toa of Utah died on Thursday.

Toa was nearly halfway through his two-year mission in the Guam area of Micronesia that he began in April 2013. The area he was serving includes the nations of Guam, Palau, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The fatal accident marks the second missionary death of the year. Last year, 12 missionaries died in what was an abnormally deadly year for proselyting members of the faith.

There are usually only a few deaths of missionaries each year.

The church has more missionaries than ever before with 84,600 men and women serving around the world.

monies to CPUC.

The CPUC is scheduled to hear today CUC's proposed \$20 per kilowatt-hour monthly standby charge for large customers and a decision is expected soon after.

At the commission's January hearing, the CPUC postponed its decision on the proposal due to what it described as inadequate information presented to the commission. Besides concerns over the benchmarks adopted by CUC in coming up with the proposal, the commission sought further justification

public relations team, said yesterday.

Earlier, the GOP endorsed only three candidates for Precinct 3, which also has six seats. But it endorsed the two incumbents for Precinct 2.

The GOP's gubernatorial team is Gov. Eloy S. Inos with Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) as his running mate. They face at least three other tickets, and the CNMI could be headed for another gubernatorial runoff if no one gets at least 50 percent plus one of the votes cast in the general elections.

The GOP is inviting the public to join them at the Republican Party's kickoff rally on Sunday, March 23, from 10am to 3pm at the Susupe basketball courts.

for the recommendation.

In the latest supplemental filing from CUC, it said that nine large commercial customers only use CUC's electric supply whenever these establishments' generators are down or undergoing maintenance check. These customers accumulate a combined connected load of 8,522 kW, or about 30 percent of CUC's annual peak demand.

If CPUC will approve the standby charge of \$20 per kW monthly to each customer, this will generate \$170,440 per month or \$2.05 million per year in additional revenue for CUC.

CUC wants the commission to approve this charge with an effective date of March 20, 2014.

CUC disclosed that the nine large customers that would be affected are Pacific Islands Club, Coral Ocean Point, Kingfisher Golf Links, Aqua Resort Club, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan World Resort, Mariana Resort and Spa, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Kanoa Resort, and the Duty Free Galleria.

"CUC's large commercial customers who generate some or all of their electrical requirements, and use CUC when their equipment breaks down or needs maintenance, are getting a free ride from CUC's other customers because they are not paying their fair share of CUC's

electric system," said the two economists.com officials.

The proposed standby charge applies to large commercial customers with a load of more than 200 kW and that generate more than 10 percent of their annual electrical requirements.

Economists.com disclosed that of the nine, three are not CUC customers at all and supply 100 percent of their own electrical requirements. These customers would not pay the standby charge because they do not use CUC's electric system.

'Acceptable methodology'

CPUC was informed that the standby charge is based on a similar rate implemented by the Guam Power Authority, a detailed study for Kauai Electric Coop, as well as the standby charge at Hawaiian Electric Utilities. Both are about \$20/kW month.

For CUC, using information from other sources to guide rate design decisions is not uncommon. It was disclosed that since 2005, CUC has been using information from GPA's cost-of-service analysis to determine the allocation of costs between customer classes and the design of rates.

"Because the climate on Guam is similar to Saipan, we used information on kW demand by customer class (with adjustments) in the CUC

COSA. This methodology has previously been found by the CPUC to be a reasonable method to aid in the establishment of rate and cost design for the CNMI," according to the latest supplemental documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

Two options

If large commercial customers want to avoid paying the monthly standby charge, they can become full electric customers of CUC, in which case they will pay the standard commercial rate. Also, they can physically disconnect from the electric grid and rely on their own generation for 100 percent of their electric requirements.

In the event these customers decide to physically disconnect from the CUC grid, the agency will likely not include the electric requirements of the commercial entities that are not customers of CUC in its load forecasts.

"The most significant implication of disconnecting from the CUC grid is that their load will not be used for planning future

electrical requirements of CUC. Sometimes later this year, CUC will begin an integrated resource planning process that will develop alternative resource strategies for the future electrical needs of its customers as part of an Integrated Resource Plan," disclosed economists.com.

At present, CUC has considerable generation reserves for Saipan. CUC's generation capacity is about 75 MW, yet the 2013 peak load on Saipan is about 35 MW, which means that CUC's reserve margin is a "very comfortable" 110 percent.

However, CUC disclosed that because its power plants are old and expensive to maintain and operate, it is likely that the results of the IRP will recommend some combination of renewable and thermal generation resources to replace the existing generation on Saipan.

Therefore, CUC will not likely include the loads of off grid establishments because it must plan for the future loads of its customers plus an adequate reserve margin to cover maintenance and forced outages.

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Ex-probation officer gets time served for 'ice' conspiracy

The federal court has sentenced former CNMI adult probation officer Robin Norita Sablan to time served for his involvement in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice."

At a hearing on Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona placed Sablan on supervised release for three years, to be served concurrently with a

27-month supervised release for a previous criminal conviction.

Sablan will be required to participate in a substance abuse treatment program, which may include up to eight drug tests a month for use of drugs or alcohol.

Sablan is prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages and entering any poker arcades during his supervised release.

The judge dismissed the re-

maining count of distribution of methamphetamine over the alleged sale of less than a gram of "ice" on March 24, 2011.

Sablan has been detained at the Department of Corrections since federal agents arrested him on Aug. 22, 2012, on charges of conspiring with others to distribute "ice."

In October 2012, Sablan and his court-appointed counsel, Steven Pixley, signed a plea

deal with the U.S. government. Sablan pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute less than a gram of "ice" from June 2010 until Aug. 22, 2012.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton recommended four months in prison, the low end of the sentencing guideline range.

Pixley recommended four months imprisonment and credit for time served in the

revocation sentence.

In September 2008, the federal court slapped a 30-month prison term on Sablan who,

while on duty as a CNMI probation officer, extorted money from several probationers. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

PROSTITUTION

From Page 1

nightclub.

The charges included employment of an illegal alien, harboring of an illegal alien, immigration fraud, solicitation, conspiracy, and aiding, abetting and encouraging illegal entry.

Then assistant attorney general Eric O'Malley stated that Club Micronesia employed at least one underage girl from June to July 2004 and let her "engage in prohibited conduct."

O'Malley said the defendants facilitated the girl's entry from Manila to Saipan using forged documents.

CLINTON

From Page 1

Clinton's domestic policy adviser Jeremy Ben-Ami told colleague Carol Rasco that he, Ben-Ami, and colleagues "Keith Mason (intergovernmental)" and "Janet Marguia (legislative)" agreed to "advise the President's Special Representative to negotiations with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands not to endorse giving the CNMI a congressional delegate at this time."

Documents also suggest that the White House at the time was looking at the idea of having a shared delegate for Guam and the CNMI.

Another one-page note from White House's Jim Farrow to colleague Marcia Hale, dated Aug. 29, 1994, said that "the symbolism the issue has taken on suggests it would be bad timing to propose adding another

delegate...as Interior may be inclined to do."

Farrow, however, stated that he "personally think the Northern Mariana Is. should be able to have a delegate."

He then cited that day's *Washington Post* story titled, "U.S. Pacific Paradise is Hell for Some Foreign Workers," which he said "raises another of the problems a Marianas delegate proposal would raise."

Long wait

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), when sought for comment yesterday, said the more than 30-year wait to get a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives "isn't unprecedented."

Sablan cited Alaska, for example, which took "some 40 years between the time the U.S. bought it from Russia and the time Alaska got a delegate in the House of Representatives."

"There are always reasons:

small population, ethnic makeup, distance from the mainland, politics, you name it," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan, the CNMI's first and so far only nonvoting delegate to Congress, said when the Northern Marianas negotiated its Covenant of Political Union with the United States, one goal was to have representation in Congress.

But the U.S. side in the negotiations would not agree, he said.

"It took us another 30-plus years to get a seat in the House—through Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, and Bush again...But, ultimately, making sure that all Americans have some voice in their national government is imperative, if we want to call ourselves a democracy. And, ultimately, Congress made the right decision and gave the people of the Northern Marianas their voice beginning in 2009," he said.

The CNMI held its first elec-

tion of delegate to Congress in November 2008. Sablan won that historic race and he was sworn into office in January 2009.

Other U.S. territories such as Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, along with Puerto Rico, were already represented in Congress at the time.

The National Archives and the Clinton Presidential Library released in late February and last week large caches of secret documents from the Clinton White House, and nearly 300 pages of which were about the CNMI's labor, minimum wage, immigration, and congressional delegate, among other things.

'Touchy'

In Ben-Ami's 1994 note to Rasco, he said the issue of territorial representation in Congress is touchy.

He said the 1993 congressional session began with the deal to give the four delegates

to Congress the ability to vote in the Committee of the Whole.

"This move by the Democratic leadership was taken badly by the Republicans and set what some consider part of the negative, partisan tone for the remainder of the session. The September before a congressional election is not the best time for the administration to take a position on this issue. No one on the Hill wants us to touch it right now," Ben-Ami said.

'Problems, population'

Ben-Ami said the CNMI is coming under a lot of pressure to improve their human rights and labor conditions. He then attached a copy of the recent *Washington Post* story, the same one that Farrow pointed out about a month earlier than that.

"Until the CNMI have addressed these issues, many on the Hill are not prepared to reward them with a delegate," Ben-Ami said.

At the time, the CNMI had a population of 65,000, and Ben-Ami said "only 23,000 of whom are U.S. citizens, less than any other U.S. territory."

Ben-Ami said congressional districts have 500,000 to 600,000 residents.

"Some in Congress believe the CNMI is too small to warrant a delegate. One option you should be aware of is a proposal that the CNMI share a delegate with Guam, which has representation, five times the population, and from which it was separated after the Spanish-American War. However, both Guam and CNMI have reason to oppose this arrangement," he added.

The pages of documents related to the CNMI were among the thousands of pages released detailing the Clinton White House's decisions on healthcare policy, national security issues, and on then-first lady Hillary Clinton's work on children's issues and women's rights.

CASINO

From Page 1

These include ensuring tax rebates remain, limiting the exclusive license to 40 years, an adjustable annual license fee depending on consumer price index changes, changing some timelines, specific dedication of funds, and not stopping existing casino and other gaming operations.

"It's getting better. It's looking more positive. I think we're getting into agreement on many of the contentious issues so I think we'll soon have a final decision," Inos said in an interview after the meeting at past 5pm.

As of yesterday, there's no telling when the governor will act on the bill, if at all.

There are a handful of options at this time: veto the bill, sign it, allowing the measure to automatically become law after 40 days without the governor's signature, and for the Legislature to recall the bill from the governor.

A third meeting with lawmakers is likely, this time to finalize the agreed-upon proposed amendments discussed yesterday, the governor said.

"The major concerns that I have have been addressed and they all agreed to make those changes so now they're just going over some of the issues that

affect the specific senatorial districts," Inos added.

The House and Senate could also hold back-to-back sessions, if needed, to pass a new bill amending the Saipan casino bill, if and when the governor signs it.

More than half of the 29 members of the House and Senate met with the governor, including Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

Only two of the lawmakers who voted "no" to the bill's passage two weeks ago were present: Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

"It doesn't hurt to listen to what they have to say," Villagomez said. But just like Cruz, he said his position on a Saipan casino bill remains the same.

They both want Saipan voters to decide on the matter.

Sen. Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian) said he will again vote "yes" to the amendment bill once it is introduced.

"It's a better bill, amending the original bill," he said. "Let's face reality here. We can no longer rely on just the existing tax base we have...We should have a 'one heart Commonwealth on this.'"

Public hearing request

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, meanwhile, asked the

Legislature to hold a public hearing on the casino bill on Tinian to "give the people of Tinian and the Dynasty Casino management an opportunity to ask questions and give input so the legislation might help clarify issues that have been raised since the bill was passed by the CNMI Legislature."

"Perhaps conducting a public hearing on the bill and the suggested amendments on Tinian is appropriate before the governor makes his final decision whether or not to sign the bill into law," the Tinian mayor told Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) in a March 17 letter.

Concerned citizens are also trying to hold a forum to be able to ask lawmakers and the governor about the casino bill. A non-profit foundation is also gathering signatures to be able to put the Saipan casino question on the ballot in November.

It was the first time in at least four years that the Senate passed a Saipan casino bill from the House. The House and Senate passed the major revenue-generating bill only a day apart, and without referral to committees and public hearing.

Saipan voters had twice rejected a casino on the island; the last time was in the 2007 elections. Casino gaming is legal only on Tinian and Rota.

Proposed changes

Based on the draft amendment

bill and interviews with the governor and lawmakers, the tax rebate program in the CNMI continues.

But the governor said there are still a lot of changes to the draft amendment bill that were presented and discussed yesterday.

The draft of the amendment bill specifies that electronic gaming machine licenses will still be granted and allowed to operate upon the casino bill's signing.

The \$1 million nonrefundable application fee remains. However, an investor can pay the application fee within 30 days—instead of the original 15 days—after the bill is signed into law, under the draft amendment bill.

The applicant would have to submit the application to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission.

The annual license fee remains at \$15 million, but the investor has to pay \$30 million to cover the first and third year license fee within 45 days—and not within 15 days—from the day the bill was signed.

Under the draft amendment bill, the \$15 million annual license fee "shall be adjusted every five years" based on the cumulative change in the consumer price index developed by the Department of Commerce for Saipan for the previous five years.

A business plan has to be submitted to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission "no later than 45 days" after the bill is signed into law, a change from the original proposal of only a 30-day deadline.

Inos said the exclusive casino license holder is still required to invest "at least" \$2 billion, to include "a casino and a resort" with a minimum of 2,000 guest rooms.

Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) and the governor separately said the administration and lawmakers agreed to prioritize funding retirement fund-related issues, including annual payments to the retirement settlement trust fund and restoring the 25 percent cut from retirees' pension.

Hocog said after these are addressed, then that's the only time that each senatorial district would get "equal" amount from the license fee.

But a more specific language has yet to be finalized on this portion of the amendment bill.

The governor also said there is clarification "as to what applies to the First and Second Senatorial Districts."

"It's a Commonwealth Act but the law will not affect the operations of casino gaming authorized under local initiatives," Inos said.

This would ensure that proceeds would also be allocated to Rota and Tinian and not only

Saipan, among other things.

The Tinian mayor and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino previously asked the governor to veto the casino bill because of its present language that could shut down the Dynasty the moment the bill is signed.

The governor said the exclusive license will be back to 40 years—initial 25 years plus 15-year extension.

The Saipan casino bill allows for up to 80 years exclusive license, and this could violate Articles 11 and 12 of the NMI Constitution because land leases are only up to 40 and 55 years, depending on whether the casino and related facilities will be built on public or private land.

The governor also said his suggestion to see portions of gross revenue taxes from the casino gaming operation allocated to help subsidize the so-called LEAC rate for residential customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., is taken into consideration. This could help lower utility rates.

Besides lawmakers including Saipan casino bill main author House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), also in the meeting were House legal counsel John Cool, Senate legal counsel Joe Bermudes and administration counsel Jim Stump and others from the Office of the Attorney General.

Textbooks for students a rarity in public schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said yesterday that the Public School System has long shifted its teaching methodologies and strategies to better teach public school students.

From relying on textbooks for class instruction, Sablan said that PSS has long been implementing "teaching the standards" for better learning outcomes.

"PSS has an approved standard which is the curriculum and that's the basis of what is instructed on a daily basis in the classroom. As far as resource materials, we don't buy a textbook to use for the curriculum," Sablan said.

She said that PSS uses as resource for instruction available materials from publishing companies and professional organizations, among other sources.

Sablan emphasized that the Board of Education does not approve textbooks but standards that are expected to be taught students in every classroom.

As an example, if students need to be taught about the

ocean, waves, corals, or species, they can be sent to the beaches to learn, for instance, how waves actually happen.

The same group of students could also do research at their school libraries and the Web to learn more about the topic.

"It is all about standards that are in the curriculum that are approved by the board," Sablan reiterated.

She pointed out, though, that PSS school libraries are still equipped with supplemental instructional materials that students and teachers could access. Each year, PSS still procures these materials for its libraries, using funds from the federal consolidated grant, she added.

"To me, whatever resources the teachers believe is aligned to the standards should be used and it doesn't have to be a textbook," she said.

Sablan claimed that this direction is in line with PSS and BOE's goals to expand the

»COE: We're teaching students based on standards, not textbooks



Sablan

technology initiatives for public schools. By using the Internet, it will allow teachers and students access to information that is critical to how standards and benchmarks are being taught in the classroom.

Sablan said the "notion of textbook is something beyond our scope since PSS started implementing the standards-based education."

Saipan Tribune learned years

ago that PSS developed its own standards as a guide to instruction. The system then shifted to the standards-based instruction until it implemented the common core standards.

Supplemental materials

Saipan Southern High School is among those that have seen results in the implementation of a standards-based education.

SSHS principal Jonathan Cabrera said yesterday that all members of the Southern Clusters Schools are working on "both vertical and horizontal alignments" to make sure that

students in each grade level are taught what they are supposed to learn and build on that.

The vertical alignment, he explained, is to make sure that 9th graders for instance are provided what they are supposed to learn at that grade level that prepares them for the 10th grade. The horizontal alignment, meantime, is making sure that teachers are on the same page with respect to what they're teaching in the classroom.

"It doesn't mean that they do exactly the same thing every single day because we're also concerned about ensuring that we meet the needs of each student," he said.

When asked the effectiveness of this strategy in his school, Cabrera said: "I think they're show-

ing results. As a system, we're showing improvements and we're not going to rest on those improvements because we need to continue the improvements."

But beyond test scores, Cabrera said he's more concerned about how students feel about how they are being taught. PSS, he said, wants students to feel empowered in their education.

Like many schools, SSHS has a lot of textbooks in its library that serve as supplemental instructional materials for teachers and students. Because most students are tech-savvy nowadays, online materials are becoming very valuable in their education, Cabrera said.

SSHS is home to 840 students and 33 classroom teachers this year.

Tinian Health Center treated, processed over 7,600 patients

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Health Center resident director William Cing disclosed that the clinic treated and processed a total of 7,685 patients last year, including 1,401 who were seen at the emergency room after clinic hours and during weekends.

The center, a five-bed capacity clinic built in 1987, is the only medical facility on Tinian servicing its entire population of about 3,200. It has different sections including emergency room, outpatient clinic, records and admission, laboratory, x-ray and ultrasound, among other units.

Cing, in his annual report submitted to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board, disclosed that THC posted a total of 371 patients referred for inter-island treatment at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Being a primary health facility, the Tinian Health Center deals with all kinds of cases and its regular clinic hours is from 7:30am to 4:30pm on weekdays. However, its emergency room is 24 hours open.

At present, the clinic has a total staff of 31 personnel including two providers, one doctor, one nurse practitioner, four registered nurses, five licensed practical nurses, and one nursing assistant.

The center's pharmacy section, it was reported, had a total of 7,425 outpatient and 61 in-patient clients. The radiol-

ogy department accommodated 700 patients and recorded 1,020 x-ray and ultrasound procedures last year.

The center's public health division, meantime, had 3,120 patients who received breast and cervical screening, children's developmental assistance, immunization services, and others.

Its Bureau of Environmental Health staffers, Cing disclosed, issued 113 sanitary permits and conducted food handler's workshop to 342 applicants last year.

In terms of revenue and collection for 2013, the resident director reported that collections totaled \$355,602 while payment of accounts through allotment was \$90,944.

According to Cing, the transfer of Dr. James Toskas from Rota also gave much relief to the center's lone provider and a great relief to the community of Tinian.

For many years, the clinic had been finding it difficult to get a permanent doctor for the island, prompting the corporation to transfer one of the two physicians at the Rota Health Center to Tinian.

Along with some accomplishments in 2013, Cing also revealed that the center experienced some challenges, primarily due to the lack of funds to sustain staffing needs and the replacement, maintenance, and repair of the center's equipment.

THC needs an additional registered nurse, a cashier, an account clerk, and a social worker, he said.

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Rota Health Center gets new resident director

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A long-time public school educator has joined the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. as resident director for the Rota Health Center.

Vanessa Q. Hocog is a for-

mer principal of the Sinapalo Elementary School. On Feb. 10 this year, she was hired for the Rota clinic's top position, which had been vacated by resident director Sydnie Taisacan.

Hocog worked for the Public School System for more than 30

years until she left the agency in early 2013.

Hocog confirmed her new appointment with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Rota Health Center has 46 personnel including 19 medical staff; 12 administrative, house-keeping and maintenance per-

sonnel; seven business office employees; and nine assigned to various divisions.

When asked about her priorities as the health center's chief, Hocog said they will continue to provide the best quality care for all RHC clients.

She assured that her leader-

ship will continue to be effective and efficient in the delivery of healthcare services, will be transparent, and will have a positive and supportive work environment for all staff.

Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* that she shared these goals and objectives with the RHC staff

during her first day of work.

"I am hopeful that with [this] opportunity, my leadership and management skills will create a new direction for the health center in order to improve health care services to benefit the Rota community," she said.

ESFDB students shine at CNMI STEM Fair



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STEM first place winners, from left, M.J. Mahusay, Jeremy John Atalig II, and John Anthony Tobongbanua.

Rows of display boards and experiments lined the gymnasium of the Marianas High School for the 2014 Public School System CNMI-Wide Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fair held last Saturday, March 15.

It's not every day that the gymnasium is filled with professional volunteers such as elected leaders, scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and doctors to judge the CNMI's young scientists.

The opportunity for Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja students to communicate with professionals is the most important part of the annual STEM Fair. ESFDB students were recognized for their science skills after the judging concluded.

John Anthony Tobongbanua took first place in the Earth and Space Category – Kinder to 1st grade cluster; M.J. Mahusay bagged first place in the Life Science Category – 2nd to 3rd grade cluster; and Jeremy John Atalig, II garnered first place in the Mathematics Category – 4th to 5th cluster.

Maria Althea Mendiola secured second place in the Physical Science Category – 4th to 5th grade cluster; while Angelica Lucero took third place in the Earth and Space Category – 6th



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Angelica Lucero, third from left, receives her 3rd place medal from the STEM committee.

to 8th grade cluster.

"This marks the third year the school has participated in the STEM Fair and I believe it is inspiring more of our students," said ESFDB science teacher and organizer Mary Rose Lucero. "Every year there is creativity in them and they look forward to next year's STEM Fair."

Carmen H. Atalig, administrator and principal of ESFDB, said the STEM Fair challenges students to apply the scientific method and produce conclusive results.

"The school's science program wants to get kids interested in science so that we can

get kids to go out and become strong in science and math," said Atalig. "We figured that if we can get them interested in science and math at a young age, hopefully we will get some scientists, engineers, or mathematicians out of this."

Third-grade student Maria Althea Mendiola, who won second place, said, "My winning second [place] is an encouragement to push harder for first place next year."

ESFDB board president Edward Maratita Jr. said: "The STEM projects illustrate kids' talents. At ESFDB, we are building our future workforce

right here with their God-given talent, which it is why it is so important for our students to stay in school and put in the extra time on their schoolwork. They represent our island's next great leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics."

The administration would like to express their appreciation to the parents of the STEM participants, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, PSS Associate Commissioner of Instruction and Assessment Jackie Quitugua, PSS STEM Committee, Dr. James and Jocelyn Toskas, Arlo Lucero, and Alejandro Badilles. (*ESFDB*)



is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKER (2)

High School diploma or equivalent with experience in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at our security office located in the south wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., March 25, 2014.

Fiesta Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



(1) DIRECTOR OF FOOD & BEVERAGE

Qualifications: A degree in hotel and restaurant management is preferred or minimum of 4 years work experience in a hotel food and beverage environment. Experience with and good understanding of financial and operational management of a hotel food and beverage operation. Excellent customer service skills and a passion for the hospitality industry. Stable work history and demonstrated achievement in progressively more responsible positions in hotel food and beverage operations along with strong, supportive employment references. Knowledgeable of safe sanitary procedures and health codes, overall compliance of all health regulations for food preparation. Proven ability to effectively build a team environment and makes decisions in a fast paced environment. Proficient with computer software applications. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

(3) ELECTRICIAN

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent or minimum of five (5) years work experience required. Maintain current electrician's license or identification card to meet governmental regulations. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department.

(9) COOK

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with three (3) years work experience preferably in a hotel. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Ability to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 24, 2014. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities
are urged to apply.



Green Meadow School's delegation to the recent 2014 STEM Fair.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GMS students bag medals at 2014 STEM Fair

Jill Anne Mallari, a 3rd grader from Green Meadow School, was awarded the silver medal for her "Solar Oven" entry under the Technology & Electronics category of the recent 2014 STEM Fair. The honor included Mallari among the top 15

winners in this year's competition. Other winners from GMS are the following:

2 - 3 GRADE CLUSTER:

■ Silver, "Multiplication Magic" by Angeline Faith Cacadac

■ Bronze, "Which Makes

People Yawn More?" by Danielle Nicole Sacramento

■ Bronze, "Let's Drink Juice!" by Jeremiah Alfred

4 - 5 GRADE CLUSTER:

■ Bronze, "Simple Electric Motor" by Bernard Angelo Marcelo.

Congratulations to all the winners! Thanks to parents who served as judges in this year's STEM Fair. GMS administration's sincere appreciation goes to teachers Meliza Umali and Ana Liza Quiambao for coaching the participating students this year. (*PR*)

Residual garment funds released to charities

On Tuesday, March 18, 2014, nearly \$100,000 was donated in the Northern Mariana Islands, from residual settlement funds in the *Doe v The GAP Inc.* case in the U.S. District Court. The case was originally filed in 2001 before Judge Alex Munson to settle wage claims between garment workers and manufacturers on Saipan. The majority of the settlement funds were paid directly to the garment workers. A California accounting firm, in charge of making the first distribution to the workers, had retained a small reserve to pay unforeseen taxes and it recently concluded there are no further tax liabilities. These funds, plus a small remainder in the held-trust account of plaintiffs' attorneys, were wired to Saipan.

The settlement agreement between the garment workers and manufacturers provides that any residual balance shall be donated to charity. In late 2013, the case was briefly reopened to seek court approval in distributing the remaining



PACIFIC SUBSEA DONATES TO WALKATHON

American Red Cross representatives John Hirsh, Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, and Paul Camacho receive a \$3,000 gift certificate from Pacific Subsea Saipan Inc. vice president Jack McClure on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, at the PSSI office in Lower Base. The gift certificate will allow a group of students from this year's ARC Walkathon, scheduled for Saturday, March 29, to take an underwater submarine adventure tour. "The Red Cross is grateful to Pacific Subsea and their more than 20 years of annual support," said Red Cross chair Belyeu-Camacho. "Our students will surely enjoy this special opportunity to see our beautiful ocean and sea life from underwater inside the submarine."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

funds. Advertisements were placed in the local newspapers, soliciting interest from qualified charities in the CNMI, with the closing date of Dec. 13, 2013. On Feb. 20, 2014, the

District Court approved the selection of eligible charities and distribution of the donations to them by Timothy H. Bellas, the former chair of the Garment Oversight Board. **(PR)**

CPA exec says projects still ongoing

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Maryann Q. Lizama gave members of the Rotary Club of Saipan a rundown of the ports authority's ongoing projects yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Lizama said that one of the biggest projects on Saipan is the rehabilitation of the main runway at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

"The rehabilitation of the surface of the runway...will allow another 20 years to provide a safe landing zone," she said.

The project will narrow the runway width from 200 feet to 150 feet, relocate the runway lights, and restore runway 6/24 back into a parallel taxiway.

Another project is a proposed replica of the *Titanic* on Tinian by Bridge Investment Group, a company formed by U.S.-mainland based investors. They are in the process of negotiating a conditional lease right now with CPA.

"It will be presented to the board of directors in this Friday's board meeting," Lizama said.

"The board has actually expressed a definite interest in trying to get this project to move forward," she added.

CPA is also working on extending Rota airport's 1,000-foot runway, as required by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Lizama said that most of these

projects have been ongoing in the past four years on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and that the Federal Aviation Administration funds most of the projects.

In other news, as a reminder to the public, she told Rotary that people "can no longer sit at the arrival curbside of the airport."

Police officers will enforce and advise parkers or waiters.

"It is a regulation enforced by [the Transportation Security Administration] and the penalty for CPA is \$11,000 per vehicle. They cannot sit at the curbside. It is an active loading and unloading only. Any vehicles will be booted or towed," Lizama said. **(Jayson Camacho)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Conservation biology research presentations

Public presentations of scientific research performed in the CNMI will be held on March 19 and 20, 2014, from 5:30pm to 7pm, at the American Memorial Park auditorium. Various topics related to the field of conservation biology will be discussed by visiting students of the Northern Arizona University's Field Experience in Conservation Biology program. FECB student researchers collaborated with local citizens, students, and resource managers on their projects. All are encouraged to attend; admission is free. **(PR)**

Navy, Air Force training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following times:

- March 19, from 7am to 4pm
- March 20, midnight to March 26, midnight
- March 27-28, from 7am to 4pm

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- March 19, from 10am to 1:30pm
- March 20, from 11am to 1:30pm
- March 21, from 10am to noon

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. **(PR)**

Parent workshop at Kagman High

Kagman High School will be having a workshop on how to help your child learn how to use reading skills in all content areas. The event will take place on March 22 from 9am to 2:30pm and April 10 from 5pm to 7:30pm at the Kagman High School campus. There will be food and giveaways! For more information, call KHS Main Office at 664-3780/237-3840. **(PR)**

MHS to hold unannounced drills

Parents and guardians of Marianas High School students are being informed that the school will be conducting some unannounced emergency drills throughout the rest of the school year that may include fire, typhoon, bomb threat, active shooter, volcanic haze, earthquake, and tsunami drills. These drills help MHS staff, students, emergency personnel, and community to prepare for real-life emergency situations that may occur in the school. For more information, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Terminal Improvements at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport, Terminal Improvements, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, demolition, building and site improvements and includes concrete foundations, concrete slabs-on-grade, cast-in-place concrete, roof membrane, metal roofing, concrete masonry unit walls, non-structural metal framing, carpentry, gypsum board, ceramic tile, resilient flooring, acoustical ceilings, aluminum doors and frames, aluminum windows, glazing, door hardware, cabinetry, toilet partitions, toilet accessories, signage, flag poles, baggage conveyors, waiting room seating, painting, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical lighting and power, complete and ready for use all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from CNMI Capital Improvement Program. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be two hundred seventy (270) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or misentry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: March 14, 2014

MMC staff renews life saving certifications

Continuing its dedication to train and develop its providers and nursing staff, Marianas Medical Center just completed two training courses in Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support. The team of nine staff passed the BLS course and seven clinical staff passed the ACLS course under the tutelage of the American Heart Association Life Support instructor Douglas Miller at the Commonwealth Health Center.

"This crucial training prepares our team in lifesaving techniques, emergency equipment usage, and appropriate course of cardiac support intervention in different cases of cardiac arrests," said Kwon Sohn, head nurse, who coordinated the trainings.

The techniques of Basic Life Support are the level of medical care that are used for victims of life-threatening illnesses or injuries until they can be given full medical care at a hospital.

The other training that the team received was Advanced Cardiac Life Support. This type of training refers to a set of clinical interventions for the urgent treatment of cardiac arrest, stroke, and other life threatening medical emergencies, as well as the knowledge and skills to deploy those interventions. Only qualified health care providers, such as physicians, advanced practice providers, and nurses, can provide ACLS, as it requires the ability to manage the patient's airway, initiate IV access, read and interpret electrocardiograms, and understand emergency pharmacology.

The biannual training is just part of the continuous training programs that Marianas Medical Center provides its staff. By successfully completing this special training, Marianas Medical Center staff, including doctors, nurses, and office



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Back row from left: Kwon Sohn, RN; Douglas Miller, RRT; Jin Kim, RN; Christen Steinkuller, PAC; and Quenny Sumook, radiologist. Front row from left: Sandy Lizama, Wanda Sotomatoror, NA; Severine Basham, PAC; and Jeffery Castello, NA.

staff, are fully updated on current protocol and recommendations in delivering critical life saving techniques. Marianas Medical Center focuses on training its staff that allows them to receive multiple nationally recognized certifications related to medical care.

"Our goal in training staff is to keep current medical knowledge and skills that not only makes them excellent at their job, but that allows them to take the skills with them, anywhere they may go. It will ultimately help provide a high standard of care we deliver to this community," said Dr. Tony Stearns, owner of Marianas Medical Center.

Marianas Medical Center's goal is to enhance its services

to build upon the quality care its team of medical professionals provides. They have three full time medical providers, and provide complete family health care including adolescent and adult medicine, pediatric, well-child care and immunization, urgent care, prenatal care, labor and delivery, and general physical exams including food handler, school, FAA and green card, and drivers examinations.

For more information, call Marianas Medical Center at 234-3924. (PR)

Dr. Tony Stearns and Dr. Cooper Schnaumdemdabach practice techniques learned at the Advanced Cardiac Life Support training.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 19, 2006

Some \$1.5 million slashed from NMC's budget

The Fitial administration has slashed some \$1.5 million from the budget of the Northern Marianas College for the current fiscal year, despite the pleas of college officials. BOR chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds confirmed yesterday that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had ruefully told them that, due to the economic difficulty, the local government has no option but to cut an estimated \$1.5 million from the college's continuing resolution budget level of \$8,046,839. Hinds, together with NMC president Tony V. Deleon Guerrero and other

NMC officials, trooped to the Governor's Office on Friday, right after Fitial's weekly news briefing. She said the group had to meet with the governor to find out once and for all the college's financial standing.

A brilliant kite festival at Navy Hill

Scores of colorful kites dotted the brilliantly blue skies over Navy Hill yesterday morning when Brilliant Star School gathered parents and local guests for its first Kite Festival and Food Fair at the baseball field on Navy Hill. Brilliant Star principal Trish Copeland, who assisted parents and children during the kite flying event, said the organiz-

ing committee is very pleased with the turnout of the event, the proceeds of which would go to the acquisition of classroom materials for the school's newly built classroom. Several competitions also livened up the event yesterday, including kite making contests, shirt decoration contests, and highest kite flying contest, among many others.

March 19, 2007

Marianas experience haze anew

The CNMI and Guam experienced another hazy weekend and the conditions may continue until tonight as wind flow patterns have brought to the Marianas region the smoke from fires across Southeast Asia coupled with emissions from Anatahan Volcano. As this developed, the Emergency Management Office and the Department of Public Health

issued an advisory, appealing to residents with respiratory ailments to avoid venturing outdoors for a long period until the conditions improve. EMO and DPH said no school cancellations are needed at this time, but that parents and teachers may request that children refrain from Physical Education during this time.

Tinian High School is mock trial champion again

Tinian High School once again emerged as the Commonwealth's mock trial champion as it bested Marianas Baptist Academy during the final round held at the CNMI Supreme Court on Saturday. Tinian's team members—Jolene Lizama, Denise Guiao, Nikita Mendiola, Michelle Aquinogoc, Kaisha Aquino, Louvele Borja, Winona Maratita, and Genevieve Santos—jumped from their seats, cried, and tightly embraced each other

when trial coordinator Karen Klaver announced the winner. With the victory, Tinian High School will represent the CNMI in the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Dallas, Texas.

March 19, 2008

Permanent US status?

A ranking congressional staffer insists that the provision on CNMI immigration included in S.2739 allows nonresident workers to remain in the CNMI during the transition period and offers them an opportunity to gain permanent U.S. status. The Fitial administration, however, argues that the bill is vague on this matter and on several other aspects relating to immigration. The congressional staff source, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, said the proposed Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 provides

that "all current CNMI workers would be eligible to remain in the CNMI under the federal guest worker program, and may become eligible for permanent U.S. status."

'When it comes to diabetes, patient compliance is key'

With the ever increasing number of diabetes cases in the CNMI, the Department of Public Health says that "patient compliance" is really the key to longer living as there is no "magic pill" that will completely cure the disease. Dr. Edward Cornette, director of Medical Affairs, defines patient compliance as taking medications as prescribed, eating properly and exercising, and taking responsibility. He says that, although DPH is well-equipped to assist patients in diabetic and blood pressure education, "patient compliance is really the key."

Search launched for overdue skiff near Chuuk Atoll

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Coast Guard along with the Navy, Federated States of Micronesia, Australia, and several commercial mariners are searching for an overdue skiff with two people aboard that departed Chuuk Atoll, Thursday.

Crewmembers at Coast

Guard Sector Guam received a report Friday that a 19-foot skiff departed for a daylong fishing trip in the vicinity of the Chuuk Atoll but did not return.

Assisting in the search is an HC-130 airplane crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, Oahu, one Navy P-3 Orion

airplane crew from Okinawa, Japan, one P-3 Orion airplane crew from Australia, the Pacific-class patrol boat FSS *Micronesia* from Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, and five good Samaritan commercial ships.

The two P-3s and the patrol boat were diverted from Opera-

tion Rai Balong. Operation Rai Balong is a bilateral regional maritime surveillance operation that targets illegal fishing.

A total of 6,099 square miles have been searched since the skiff went missing. The Coast Guard, Navy, Australia, and the FSS *Micronesia* continue

searches west and northwest of Chuuk Atoll. Chuuk Atoll is approximately 621 miles south east of Guam.

The 14th Coast Guard District encompasses an area of 12.2 million square miles of the Central and South Pacific. Coast Guard aircraft based in Hawaii

frequently travel thousands of miles in response to search and rescue and other calls for assistance. The *Hercules* is scheduled to be replaced by the HC-130J, which will bring increased capabilities to Coast Guard response across the Pacific. (USCG)

Disinfectants, sterilizers as pesticides

There are various types of pesticides—some obvious, some not. A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Many household products are pesticides and can include kitchen, laundry and bath disinfectants, and sanitizers. Products that kill mold and mildew are also considered pesticides.

These types of pesticides are called antimicrobial pesticides. Antimicrobial pesticides are products intended to be used to (a) disinfect, sanitize, reduce, or mitigate growth or development of microbial organisms or (b) protect inanimate objects, industrial processes or systems, surfaces, water, or other chemical substances from contamination, fouling, or deterioration caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, algae, or slime.

Antimicrobial pesticides come in a wide variety of forms, including toilet bowl sanitizers, swimming pool chemicals, and bleach. These products can be used to treat surfaces, air and

water to prevent, reduce, or kill dangerous harmful and non-harmful bacteria, fungi, algae and viruses.

Antimicrobial pesticides are categorized based on the type of microbial pest they are designed to reduce or eliminate. Some products are intended to kill certain pests like algae and odor-causing bacteria that are generally not a threat to human health.

There are 3 types of "public health" antimicrobial pesticides:

■ **Sterilizers** are products used to destroy or eliminate all forms of microbial life including fungi, viruses, all forms of bacteria and their spores. They are the strongest type of public health antimicrobials. Sterilizers are generally used in medical and research settings where the presence of microbes must be prevented as much as possible.

■ **Disinfectants** are products used on hard inanimate surfaces and objects to destroy or deactivate the growth of bacteria and fungi. Some disinfectants target

specific viruses. Disinfectants are used in medical and residential settings and are used to disinfect hard, non-porous surfaces such as toilets, bathtubs, kitchen floors, linens and other hard surfaces.

■ **Sanitizers** are products used to reduce microorganisms from inanimate surfaces to levels considered safe as deter-

mined by public health codes or regulations. Sanitizers are the weakest type of public-health antimicrobials. Some sanitizers can be used for locations where food products are placed and stored and other sanitizers can only be used for non-food contact surfaces like carpets or in air.

The DEQ Pesticide Management branch is charged with the

responsibility to regulate the importation, sale and distribution of pesticides, legal or illegal, to ensure public health and a clean and healthy environment. DEQ staff regularly inspects business establishments for any misbranded products. Should misbranded items be found, all misbranded pesticides will be confiscated and penalties may be assessed.

The CNMI Pesticide Regulations are available to any interested party. Call or visit the Division of Environmental Quality Pesticide Management branch at 664-8522, located along Chalan Pale Arnold at the Gualo Rai Center or visit the DEQ website at www.deq.gov.mp. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. (BECQ)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 70th birthday to the most amazing mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and best friend ever, Maria Torres! Thank you for always being there. We love you and appreciate all that you do for us and our family. We are the lucky ones!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A very special happy birthday greeting goes out to Frankie M. Camacho! May you enjoy your day with laughter and fun. Cheers for today and for many more to come! God bless and we love you. Greetings coming out from your *familia* and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Happy anniversary to our loving, supportive, welcoming, and coolest parents, Stanley and Zenaida Santos, who are celebrating 24 years of being together today, March 19, 2014. We wish you many more happiness and many more years to come. You are the greatest gift as parents and best grandparents. We love you to the moon and back to Kagman! Greetings come from Craimar, Patnish, Stanstacie, Marcess, Sus, Shawn, Pepz, Ninja, and Kimani.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





10th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby

Saturday, March 22nd, 2014



Pre-Registration
Friday, March 21, 2014
Time: 4:30 PM – 6:30pm
Location: Smiling Cove Marina

Schedule of Events
Date: Saturday, March 22, 2014
Launching Point: Smiling Cove Marina ONLY
Launching Time: 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Location: Saipan, MP






For more information, please contact Ed Diaz at the Marianas Visitors Authority at (670)664-3200 or email at ediaz@mymarianas.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

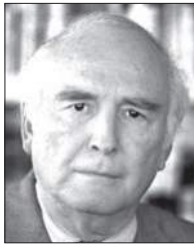
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSISTANT EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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Later school start is a boost for teens

By DAN K. THOMASSON
McClatchy-Tribune News Service*Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at: thomassondan@aol.com.*

WASHINGTON—A growing number of public school administrators are capitulating to the obvious—that it is better for teenagers to get extra sleep at home than in the classroom. It's about time.

It has taken several decades for them to come to that position although one suspects that they have known all along that starting the high school day an hour later is more suitable to teenage biological needs and enhances performance through, among other things, improved attentiveness. After all, studies over several decades have repeatedly verified this. I've been advocating it for that long.

A University of Minnesota study 15 or so years ago, proved fairly conclusively that just the small change to meet the sleeping habits of 13 to 18 year olds, made a difference in their learning curve. The Minnesota researchers recently followed up with a study of eight high schools in three states before and after they changed their schedules to later start times that showed marked improvement in several areas, including mental health, standardized tests, attendance and even car crash statistics.

Among the first to realize the significance of starting later were school systems in Connecticut, North Carolina, Kentucky and, of course, Minnesota. Recent converts to the idea include systems in Georgia, California, Oklahoma, and New York. A half -dozen school boards in metropolitan areas like Seattle, Montgomery County, Md., and Fairfax, Va., also are moving in that direction.

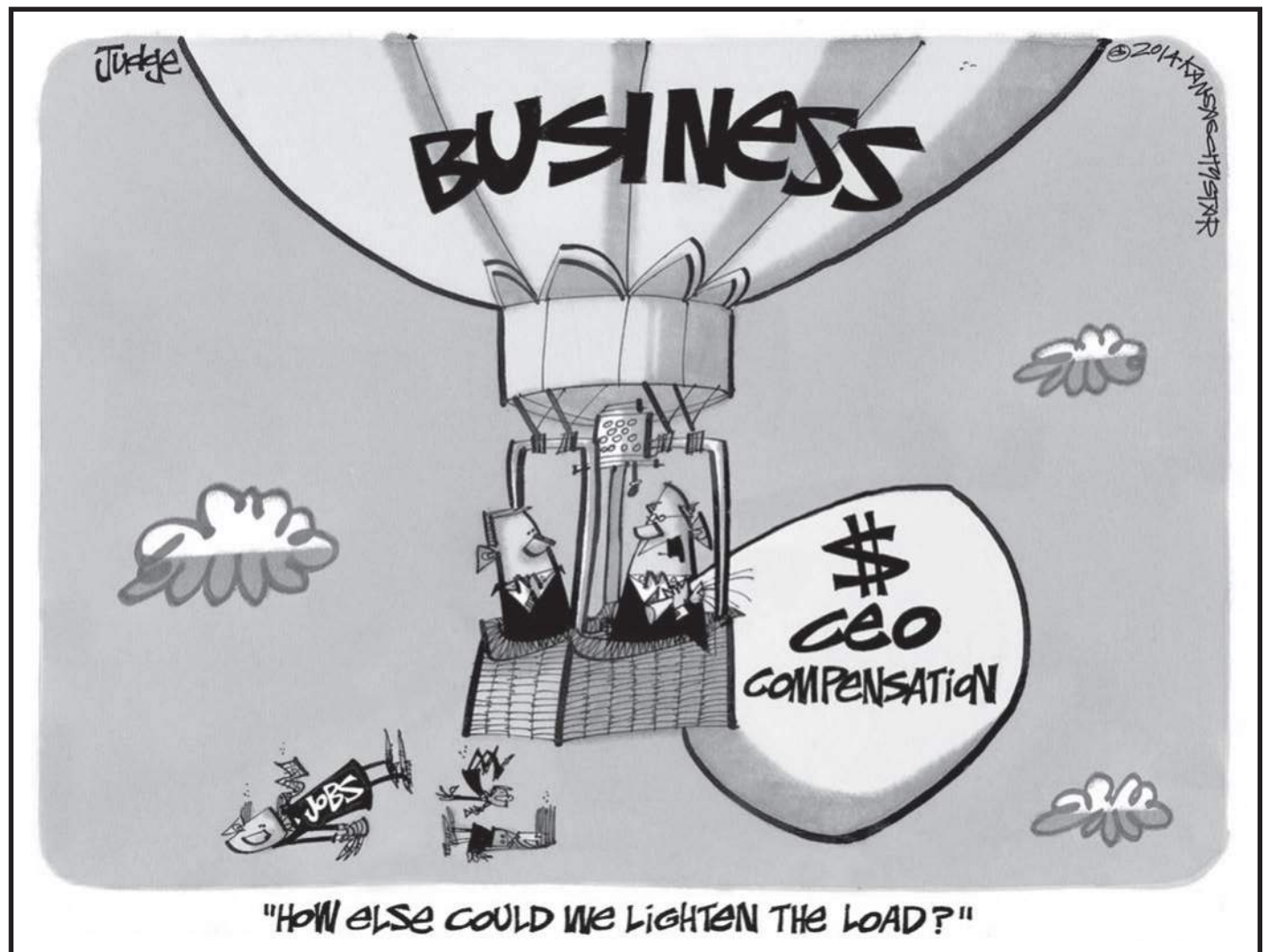
Then why has acceptance of the idea been so illusive? The answer is simple. The current model of ringing the first bell at 7:30 or even earlier in some cases better suits the parents, teachers and their bosses. In other words, this never really has been about what's best for the students especially in a culture when both parents work, bus routes are often long and complex and after-school activities demand an early finish to the classroom day. Then there is the homework argument that if you let them come in an hour later the amount of time needed for homework is cut short on the other end.

This claim, however, has always seemed specious considering that one of the reasons for pushing back the start time is because teenagers generally stay up later. It's a hormone thing that keeps them alert until 11 p.m. or even beyond. Shorting them on the morning side is not a good idea as most parents can tell you. But once again the daily demands of our society frequently interfere.

From my experience in raising three boys and a girl, the evidence is irrefutable. When school started later for whatever reason, the boys were much easier to deal with. Their sister had an amazing ability to get to bed earlier but all clearly performed better when they had at least seven to eight hours of sleep. When they went off to college, they scheduled their first classes of the day with that in mind.

A side benefit to the later start, according to the Minnesota study that included 9,000 students in three states, was a decline in depression, the use of alcohol, drugs and consumption of caffeine in comparison to those teenagers who had less sleep. According to the report the results were the same across the board with no difference in mental health outcomes between poor kids from the inner-city and affluent ones.

See LATER on Next Page



"How else could we lighten the load?"

Working together on marine resources issues

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the speech Gov. Eloy Inos delivered at the 159th Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Meeting at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on March 17, 2014.

First, let me welcome our distinguished guests, and all of our off-island visitors to the CNMI for the 159th Western Pacific Council Meeting. I am also very pleased to see many of our local residents and members of the fishing community here today.

I would like to start by recognizing the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's effort in being the voice of the people, particularly in regards to the management of our marine resources and the development of federal policies that ultimately control how we live and interact with our marine environment and resources living in the waters surrounding our islands.

This is important work and as a trusted member of our island community, I am pleased that the Council tries its best to represent the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and is willing to bring controversial issues to our attention and provide a public venue, such as this meeting, where these issues can be openly deliberated.

The meeting agenda contains several extremely important issues that are exceptionally relevant to the people of the Marianas. While some federal actions and proposals you will be talking about are in the planning phase, there are other federal policy decisions that are already being implemented by the responsible federal agencies that we must carefully consider.

This is so because these federal regulatory actions affect our lives and it is crucial that we involve ourselves as meaningful participants rather than indifferent bystanders. We should not in my opinion allow the federal government to unilaterally make decisions that affect our lives and heritage—our very culture.

Of course, one such issue I am referring to is the continued and possible expansion of military uses of the nearshore waters surrounding FDM and Tinian. And Pagan. Another important issue is the status of the federal government's conveyance of the submerged lands around all of our islands to the people of the Northern Marianas. These are clearly two of the most important issues in the CNMI today.

As we continue our discussions with the Department of Defense on the utilization of our submerged lands for national security and safety purposes, we ask the DoD representatives to recognize that the consequences of some of their actions will place marine resources out of the reach of members of our fishing community (and could place unfavorable travel restrictions on our local waters).

It may be possible, given our good working relationship with DoD, to arrive at an amenable solution with respect to the expanding proposed military activities in the CNMI. Unfortunately, I can-

By ELOY S. INOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune*Eloy S. Inos is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*

not say the same about the conveyance of submerged lands that make up the Marianas Trench Marine Monument Islands Unit of Uracus, Maug, and Asuncion.

For whatever reasons, President Obama has determined that the people of the Northern Marianas should not be given ownership of the submerged lands around the Islands Unit islands until such time as a co-management plan can be created and approved by two separate federal agencies responsible for the Monument. This is not such an easy task.

And while I can understand the military's desire and need to control certain parcels of submerged lands for national security and training purposes, the issues involving the submerged lands around the Islands Unit in the Marine Monument do not fit this same model of an overriding national defense purpose. I do not clearly understand why these submerged lands have been withheld.

In any respect, the people of the Northern Marianas have yet to receive any communication from either the departments of Interior or Commerce providing us with a detailed explanation of what is actually holding up the creation and implementation of an appropriate co-management plan, which will permit the conveyance of the Monument's submerged lands to finally occur.

It has been over five years since the Monument was created and some of the deadlines specified in the presidential proclamation have not been met and it is unclear when they will be met. This was one reason why I wrote to President Obama and requested that he establish a cut-off date when the management agreement plan would have to be finalized or to allow the conveyance to automatically take place.

Unfortunately, it is my opinion that we are still years away from the final enactment of a co-management plan and I continue to believe that the people of the Northern Marianas should not have to continue to wait for the enactment of an approved management agreement to be in place before our submerged lands are returned to their rightful owners.

Accordingly, I ask the distinguished members of this Council for their support in our efforts to have the Monument's submerged lands presently being held by the departments of Interior and Com-

See WORKING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sizing up the NMI's future

"Sunrise I sigh, sunset I cry, at midnight I'm in between and wondering why".

—From Time, a folk song by Peter, Paul and Mary.

The popular trio isn't singing about a failed island economy. But when people talk about hardship these days (bad economy) it includes costly power bills, cut in pension pay, the a huge increase in health insurance, deductibles and medication; salaries that have remained the same (stagnant) for over 10 years (underemployment), and the impending increase in basic food items. It's known as the cost of living that has mercilessly skyrocketed by at least 20 percent.

The projected revenue for next fiscal year (same as last year's at \$123 million) is a serious indicator that the NMI economy is deep in the filthy ditch of debts and deficit spending. Would the Holy Grail of this mess—casino—offer the ultimate salvation for the mounting financial mess? It's a wonderful mouth off that would run way short

WORKING

From Page 10

merce to be returned to their rightful owners.

With respect to fisheries, I would like to recognize the contributions of the Council over the past years, especially with regards to fisheries development in our waters. The Northern Marianas was recently provided a concept plan to improve our fisheries infrastructure through the construction of a dock facility that would support a small pelagic fishing fleet. In support of the potential infrastructure development, a Mariana skipjack assessment was conducted and a report on potential seafood marketing options that are available in both Guam and the Northern Marianas will soon be completed.

As you are all aware, the CNMI's fisheries flourished during the period of time in which the Japanese controlled our islands. However, the world has changed since then and we now face a greater need to approach fisheries development from a sustainable and responsible perspective. We need to plan and utilize our current state of fisheries knowledge in order to develop sustainable pelagic and bottom fish fisheries. I do know that the South Pacific Commission assists various island nations all through the Western Pacific in developing sustainable fisheries, but the question is, can NOAA help the CNMI address its needs in fishery development? Our cousins to the south in Palau are certainly considering this issue.

And finally, I also want to recognize the scheduled discussion on the federal preemption issue and CNMI laws that address our management of sharks and the practice of shark finning. This discussion is certainly needed as there are anti-shark finning laws here in the CNMI which I support, but which some believe do not conform with federal shark conservation laws. It is my hope that this federal preemption issue is carefully analyzed and worked-through and addressed before there is any additional talk of federal preemption.

As we proceed with all these discussions, there may be times when we have different ideas on certain issues. Despite these differences, we must acknowledge that many, if not all, of these issues will directly affect our island community. Marine resources are a great part of our culture, are for the use of everyone, and should not be limited to one group's vision. We should work together on this important issues and find appropriate resolutions to outstanding differences.

I sincerely hope that all of our visitors enjoy their stay on Saipan and that you have some time after the meetings to relax and enjoy our island. Thank you for your time and please enjoy your stay.

LATER

From Page 10

This is a nation that spends untold amounts of money on trying to find ways to improve its public schools while often ignoring the relatively simple solutions that are available. Teaching boys and girls separately for instance acknowledges what most veteran teachers at least and certainly parents understand; that the two sexes learn at a different pace and respond to different stimuli. Yet the resistance to this approach, based on a phony social equality policy and that it costs too much has stymied it for years. It is a case where separate may be more equal than not. Once again concern for the student seems not to be in the mix.

Fortunately for the teenagers who are just beginning their high school careers, the move is toward giving them a better chance for success by allowing them a crucial hour of extra slumber to meet their biological needs. If it requires some schedule juggling and rearranging of adult time, it will be well worth it. There is ample evidence of that. The benefit far outweighs other considerations.

of anticipated revenue of more than \$40 million. So there goes your salvation.

A government that is piled with heaps of debts and continues spending beyond its means doesn't offer much room to maneuver working on economic growth programs in order to begin turning our canoe of bankruptcy to the open waters of opportunities. Not when power bills have effectively shut down a lot of small businesses—the backbone of any community—and not when this same beastly cost robs the poorest of families of what's left of the family pocketbooks. This is where you hear the true sentiments of villagers. This is where you literally see how they juggle egregious hardship—paying for costly power bills or buying food for the family.

The poor economic condition has even forced legislators to approve pension obligation bond. It's basically a huge loan and interests of over \$200 million that must be paid by saddling our children with debts that compromises their economic freedom. It means other taxpayers who are not beneficiaries of the pension program must pay for a loan that robs them even further of their meager income. Is it fair robbing Jose so Juan could get his retirement check?

The pain and hardship of the economic mess is especially acute and critical among families in the villages. Would the cost of power decrease or would the exact opposite occur? Would retirees recover the loss of the 25 percent arbitrarily cut by this administration? Would DB members who withdrew their money be paid the interest owed? Would there be upward salary adjustments to ease the cost of living? Or is it better for villagers to rely on their prayers?

Indeed, we've mouthed-off the essence of self-government and I couldn't agree more. But essential to the exercise of self-government is the ability to rein in the unbridled spending habit that has ditched this government beyond our wildest imaginings. It's time to summon the culture of responsibility forthwith. It's the only way to reclaim what's ours and rebuild the bridge of hope for our children. Otherwise, we'd all be humming heedlessly in the midnight of hopelessness, "wondering why."

For the young folks

Definitely, you must have been pondering what the future holds for you as you begin eyeing taking your permanent place in our community. Has anyone championed your aspirations for a hopeful and brighter tomorrow as a contributing member of the NMI? Or has apathy from leadership left you stranded and abandoned? Need it be this way?

There's no organized program of education and subsequent assimilation into careers and room for continuing education. Yet tired or exhausted politicians keep mouthing off about the future of our

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An explanation, please

I that you would consider this letter worthy of publication because this is a matter of serious concern affecting over 4,000 retirees and voters of the CNMI.

I recently obtained a copy of Public Law 15-15, concerning the retirement program that was passed during the 15th Legislature. This law suspended the government obligation (employer contributions) to the retirement program for two years plus more. This action affected the financial condition of the retirement program, which nearly bankrupted it. Now, the retirees' pensions are cut by 25 percent as a result and suffering is brought about because of it.

As I examined the law further, I also discovered that the bill was never referred to a committee in the House, no public hearing held, and no committee report issued. The retirees were kept

Crucial vote

The local politics on Tinian for this year's general elections is gradually reaching a boiling point. The strategists from the aisles of the challengers opposing the incumbency of Mayor Roman M. Dela Cruz have yet to put in place their formal strategies and statistical information.

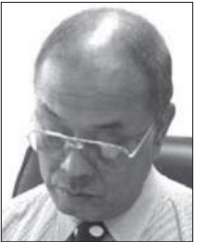
In the meantime, Mayor Dela Cruz continues to focus his mind on the mode of moving forward. Since taking office, he has done moving forward a long time ago. Many people inside and outside of Tinian greatly admire him for being straightforward when it comes to issues affecting the lives of his lovely people. What more can be expected from a quality leader like Mayor Dela Cruz, who holds the kind of quality leadership that the people of Tinian have never seen in a long time?

Here is how the mayoral race on Tinian looks like at this point. There's no doubt that it is going to be a three-way race. But if the

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



young people. Give 'em an AWOL (absent without official leave) from their fiduciary duties. After all, leadership entails a single most important trait: listening. Most haven't heard you yearning for an opportunity for personal and professional development. They thought they did, but didn't.

Leadership also entails helping and giving others real opportunities to improve their lot or livelihood. Call it wisdom and wealth. How true that it isn't how much you have but how much you've given away generously to help others move forward. Only when your pocket is empty for giving generously would it be refilled with greater rewards. They've kept everything to themselves in what's known as self-interest.

You can definitely play a major role electing academically and professionally competent policymakers who understand the depth and substance of issues. Unless the initial stage is in place, positive and progressive policymaking turns into a useless exercise. This you can change, beginning this general election. You owe it to yourself and the younger ones behind you. Change starts with the self. Reclaim what's yours and let's begin rebuilding the fallen bridge of economic prosperity.

Listening

Young as you may be and teeming with lots of energy, take the time to keep your ears to the ground, listening to your peers speak fearfully about their tomorrows. What they say through the heart also involves you and your future. Thus, the urgent need to listen to them.

You share common concerns about what lies ahead. It's time to move in and help rebuild the pathway to economic prosperity so home becomes a meaningful place for you as you start taking your seat in this community. Be an active part of a future that grants you and your peers real opportunities right here at home.

When you become an active participant in rebuilding our islands, you would have prepared the way for younger folks to look forward enthusiastically into a bright new break of dawn. As hard as it may seem, let's join hands and begin anew.

in the dark. Why?

On further examination, I was surprised to see that the principal author of the bill was then Rep. Ray Yumul, now Sen. Ray Yumul. Can he explain to the 4,000 retirees why he is the principal author of this legislation, knowing it will have a devastating financial effect on the retirees? The retirees are hurting from the 25-percent cut in their pension. The retirees want an explanation for this reckless action.

I also look forward to obtaining the record on those who voted for the bill.

Edward Manibusan San Nicolas (Luvurts)

Kagman, Saipan

newly revived CNMI Democratic Party puts up a slate on Tinian, then the mayoral race is going to be a four-way race down the road. If the electorate on Tinian is divided into three or four representing the number of candidates running for the position of mayor, then who is going to have more chances and advanced votes in place to win the election? Ponder this question and deliberate the pros and cons and arrive at a positive conclusion for the sake of your family.

In the face of the present economic bad times, the weight of voting who and who not to vote for will be very crucial for voters who are presently unemployed to support their children and meet their financial obligations.

Martin M. Sakisat

Garapan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼75
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86 ▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲87 ▼80

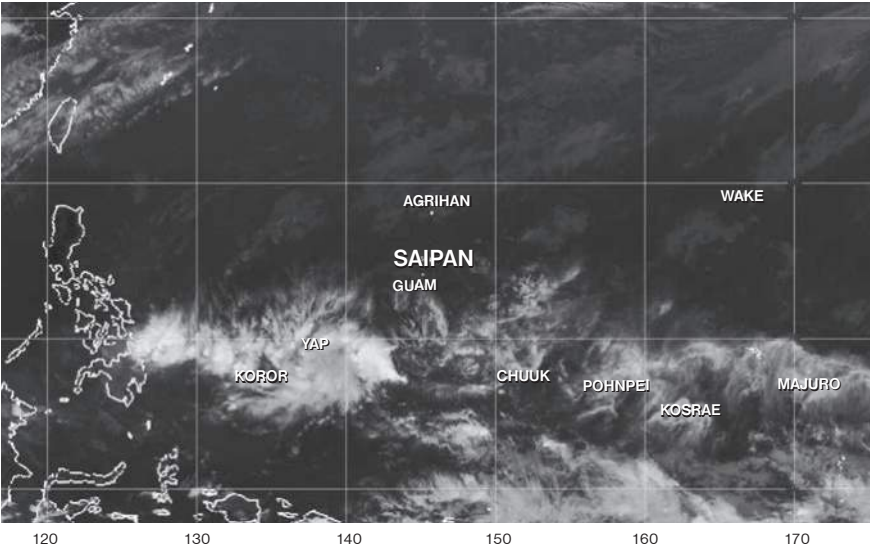
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼60
Beijing	Showers	▲59 ▼37
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼65
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼45
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲77 ▼54
Manila	Sunny	▲91 ▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲71 ▼52
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼67
New York	Sunny	▲42 ▼32
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲58 ▼46
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲63 ▼46
Pusan	Cloudy	▲55 ▼44
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼51
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼37
San Francisco	Sunny	▲69 ▼49
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲60 ▼39
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼48
Washington, DC	Showers	▲48 ▼40

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:18 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
10:05 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
4:42 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
10:49 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N166E to beyond 14N134E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found north of Wake Island and across the far Northern Marianas along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A near equatorial trough runs eastward from 4N130E through a tropical disturbance centered near Yap at 8N139e to end at the equator and 152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located over Yap and Koror between 11N and 5N from 130E to 143E. Another near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from 4N159E to 2N170E to beyond the date line at 1N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of Pohnpei between 3N and the equator from 156E to 161E farther east. Scattered showers are occurring over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls south of line from 2N167E to 5N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:37 PM	7:48 AM
Thursday	9:32 PM	8:33 AM
Friday	10:27 PM	9:21 AM
Saturday	11:24 PM	10:12 AM
Sunday		11:07 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) OZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 170	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Unemployment rates drop in 43 US states in January

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unemployment rates fell in 43 U.S. states in January as more Americans began looking for work and most quickly found jobs.

The Labor Department said Monday that the unemployment rate rose in just one state - Iowa

- where the rate increased to 4.3 percent from 4.2 percent. Still, that's far below the national rate of 6.6 percent that month. Rates were unchanged in six states.

The data demonstrates that the steady decline in the unemployment rate nationwide has

been broad-based, occurring throughout much of the country. The overall U.S. unemployment rate has fallen 1 percentage point in the past 12 months.

Twenty-three states reported more hiring in January, while 27 said that the number of jobs fell. Harsh winter weather weighed on hiring nationwide, with employers adding just 129,000 jobs in

January. That's below the average monthly gain of about 180,000 in the previous two years.

The job gains are calculated from a survey of employers, while the unemployment rate stems from a separate survey of households. The two surveys sometimes produce disparate results. In January, the household survey painted a more positive

view of the nation's job market than the employer survey did.

Rhode Island had the highest unemployment rate, at 9.2 percent. The state's economy has suffered from a housing bust and manufacturing slump. Illinois and Nevada had the next highest rates, both at 8.7 percent, followed by California, with 8.1 percent.

North Dakota had the lowest rate, at 2.6 percent. It has benefited from an oil and gas drilling boom. Nebraska had the next-lowest rate, at 3.5 percent, followed by South Dakota at 3.6 percent.

Nationwide, hiring improved in February, as employers added 175,000 jobs. The unemployment rate rose to 6.7 percent, but partly for an encouraging reason: more Americans started searching for jobs, though most didn't find one right away. Still, the fact that they began job hunting suggests they were more encouraged about their prospects.

The states with the biggest job gains in January were Texas, which added 33,900 positions, mostly in construction, education and health, and restaurants and hotels. Ohio had the next-largest gain, with 16,700, followed by Arizona, with 8,900. Vermont, Rhode Island and Nevada also reported healthy increases.

California posted the largest decline, losing 31,500 positions, mostly in construction, government and in a category that includes retail, transportation and utilities. It was followed by Illinois, which lost 27,600, and Kentucky, with a drop of 18,500.

Another GM recall: 1.18M SUVs for air bag issue

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors issued a new recall of 1.5 million vehicles Monday, part of an effort to assure buyers that it's moving faster to fix safety defects in its cars and trucks.

In a video message to employees posted Monday, CEO Mary Barra said the new recall resulted from a push to review potential safety issues and resolve them more quickly.

It's part of the fallout from the recall last month of more than 1.6 million small cars for defective engine switches. The defect is linked to 12 deaths, and GM is facing multiple investigations into how it handled the recall. GM first began investigating the switches in 2004.

"Something went wrong with our process in this instance, and terrible things happened," Barra said.

Barra told employees that GM is undergoing an "intense review" of its recall procedure, and that its system will change. In the meantime, she said, the company will coop-

erate fully with government investigators.

"The bottom line is, we will get better as a result of this tragic situation if we seize the opportunity," she said.

GM said it expects to spend approximately \$300 million in the first quarter to repair the vehicles in the new recalls as well as the vehicles in the small car recall.

Jack Nerad, editorial director for Kelley Blue Book, said it's better for GM to act on the new recalls now rather than waiting until the ignition switch investigations have ended.

"If you've got bad news now and put it out in a month's time, it looks like a trend and it will just prolong things," he said.

"They're saying, 'This is our stake in the ground and we're changing the way we're operating.'"

GM announced last month that ignition switches in older models of the Chevrolet Cobalt, Pontiac G5s, Saturn Ion, Chevrolet HHR, Pontiac Solstice and Saturn Sky need to be repaired.



In this Feb. 6 2014 photo, Margarita Sanchez, 72, of Hollywood, Fla., front, listens during a job search workshop at WorkForce One in Davie, Fla.

Yellen to put Fed's new leadership on display

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Janet Yellen era at the Federal Reserve begins in earnest this week with a two-day meeting, a policy statement and fresh economic forecasts. Yet all that will be a prelude to the marquee event: Yellen's first news conference as Fed chair.

The financial world will be parsing every word for any hint of a policy shift.

Will Yellen, having succeeded Ben Bernanke, embrace Bernanke's approach of keeping rates low while gradually paring the Fed's economic stimulus?

Or, as some speculate, might she prove even more inclined than Bernanke to favor low rates to try to accelerate job growth, even at the risk of high inflation?

No major announcements are expected when the meeting ends Wednesday. But many analysts think the Fed could make one change in its statement: They think it may drop any reference to an unemployment rate that might cause the Fed eventually to raise short-term rates. Elimi-

nating that reference would help the Fed maximize its flexibility on rates.

The Fed's most recent policy statement said it planned to keep short-term rates at record lows "well past" the time the unemployment rate falls below 6.5 percent. The rate is now 6.7 percent. But several Fed officials have recently suggested scrapping the 6.5 percent threshold and instead describing more general changes in the job market and inflation that might trigger a rate increase.

Charles Evans, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, said last week that there's "not a large expectation" that the 6.5 percent threshold will remain much longer, a point also made recently by William Dudley, president of the New York Fed.

One reason for dropping the threshold, as Yellen among others have noted, is that the unem-

ployment rate can overstate the job market's health. In recent months, for example, the rate has fallen not so much because of robust hiring but because many people without a job have stopped looking for one. Once people stop looking for a job, they're no longer counted as unemployed, and the rate can fall as a result.

"There is a growing consensus to go with more nuance instead of a specific number," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial. "I think they are just too close to 6.5 percent on the unemployment rate."

Yellen, who was sworn as chair on Feb. 3, has spoken of seeking continuity with Bernanke, under whom she served as vice chair. That's partly why the Fed will likely announce this week a third reduction in its monthly bond purchases. Those purchases have been intended to keep long-term loan rates

low to encourage spending and growth.

In December and in January, the Fed cut its monthly pace of bond buying from an original \$85 billion in \$10 billion increments to \$65 billion. If the economy keeps improving, the Fed will likely keep paring its bond purchases until ending them altogether in December.

The pullback is expected to occur despite challenges the U.S. economy and financial markets face, from a brutal winter that's depressed growth, to fears about how Russia's aggression toward Ukraine might slow the global economy.

Still, Fed officials, including Yellen, have signaled their belief that the weakness in U.S. economic data is temporary rather than a sign the economy is losing momentum.

The Fed and most private economists foresee faster economic growth in 2014. Many think the economy, which grew a lackluster 1.9 percent in 2013, will rebound to around 3 percent this year.



Yellen

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Yahoo stock surges in anticipation of Alibaba IPO

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo is getting another lift from its stake China's Alibaba Group, a thriving Internet company that has helped mask Yahoo's own financial funk. Investors latched on to Yahoo Monday in anticipation of a huge windfall from Alibaba's initial public offering of stock later this year. Alibaba triggered the latest wave of excitement about its forthcoming IPO with a Sunday announcement of its intention to list its stock on a U.S. exchange instead of in Hong Kong. The precise timing of the IPO is still unclear, although the documents for the filing are expected to be filed

within the next six months.

US factory output rose in Feb. by most in 6 months

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. factory output rebounded strongly in February after harsh winter storms caused a steep drop-off in production in January. Manufacturers produced more autos, home electronics and chemicals. The Federal Reserve said Monday that factory production surged 0.8 percent, nearly reversing a 0.9 percent plunge in January that was due mainly to weather. February's gain was the largest in six months. The figures suggest that factories are poised to boost output and drive more economic growth as the weather improves.



LEADING INDICATORS		
DOW 16,247.22 +181.55 +1.13%	S&P 1,858.83 +17.70 +0.96%	NASDAQ 4,279.95 +34.55 +0.81%

EXCHANGE RATES		
In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	1.1016
	British Pound	0.601
	Canadian Dollar	1.1057
	Chinese Yuan	6.1883
	Euro	0.7178
	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7656
	Indian Rupee	60.945
	Indonesian Rupiah	11306
	Japanese Yen	101.772
	Malaysian Ringgit	3.269
	New Zealand Dollar	1.1683
	Philippine Peso	44.64
	Singapore Dollar	1.2643
	South Korean Won	1069.8
	Swiss Franc	0.8727
	Taiwan Dollar	30.325
	Thailand Baht	32.1332

Nation

St. Pat's parades proceed amid tension over gays

NEW YORK (AP)—A weekend of St. Patrick's Day revelry and tensions over the exclusion of gays in some of the celebrations culminated Monday in New York, where the world's largest parade celebrating Irish heritage stepped off without the city's new mayor and Guinness beer amid a dispute over whether participants can carry pro-gay signs.

The parade of kilted Irish-Americans and bagpipers set off on a cold, gray morning. Hundreds of thousands of spectators lined Fifth Avenue, but the shivering, bundled up crowd was only about half as thick as in previous years.

Revelers also gathered elsewhere for green-themed celebrations, including some 400,000 locals and tourists in Dublin, where gay rights groups took part in the festivities.

De Blasio held New York's traditional St. Patrick's Day breakfast at Gracie Mansion with the Irish prime minister, Enda Kenny, but boycotted the parade because organizers said marchers were not allowed to carry gay-friendly signs or identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Weeks ago de Blasio said he would skip the parade over the issue, but Guinness abruptly dropped its support a day before the event. The Dublin-based company pulled sponsorship assets, including on-air presence, parade participation and any promotional materials that weren't already printed, although the beer maker had already made a payment to parade organizers, spokeswoman Alix Dunn said.

Other beer companies took part in the boycotts, with Samuel Adams withdrawing its sponsorship of Boston's parade and Heineken also bagging New York's parade because of the exclusion of gays.



Police Commissioner William Bratton marched with a contingent of uniformed officers. Gay activists protesting the exclusion of official LGBT groups held a news conference before the march to say they didn't think the NYPD officers should participate in uniform.

About two dozen gay rights advocates protested the parade holding placards high enough for marchers to see. "If Danny Boy were gay, would he be welcome today?" read one.

Protester Richard Lynch wore a Guy Fawkes mask, which was popular among members of the Occupy Wall Street movement. He said de Blasio should have ordered the police commissioner not to march.

"This was a big mistake," Lynch said. "It says the mayor isn't serious about LGBT inclusion in this parade."

AP
Actor Jim Belushi, left, makes his way down Bridge Street during what's being called the world's shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade, Monday, March 17, 2014, in Hot Springs Ark.

sorship of Boston's parade and Heineken also bagging New York's parade because of the exclusion of gays.

Roman Catholic Cardinal Timothy Dolan, who greeted passing dignitaries in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral wearing a woolen Irish cap over his red cardinal's skull cap, said he supports the participation of individual gays and hoped St. Patrick's Day could be a day of unity and joy.

"I know that there are thousands and thousands of gay people marching in this parade," he said. "I know it. And I'm glad they are."

Winter's final encore? More snow for parts of US

WASHINGTON (AP)—With a harsh winter that closed the federal government, schools and offices for several days this year, Washington and other cities seemed to be getting used to digging out of the snow and cold as yet another storm blew into Mid-Atlantic and parts of the eastern U.S. on Monday.

With spring days away, the commute on Washington's Metro transit system was light. Sidewalks were cleared faster than in past storms. More

homeowners and businesses gave up on snow shovels in favor of snow blowers. Airports saw some cancellations, but runways were reopening by midmorning.

With the temperature rising, the latest snow was poised to turn into a slushy mess faster as well.

At least a few inches of snow were reported in the Washington area and parts of West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. For Philadelphia, the

4.5 inches of snow that fell as of 8 a.m. made this winter the second-snowiest on record. The National Weather Service said 67.4 inches had fallen so far for the 2013-14 season.

Snowfall at Dulles airport in Sterling, Va., totaled 10 inches at 10 a.m., the agency said. Accumulations in the region reached as high as 11 inches in the Montgomery County, Md., community of Hillandale, about 10 miles north of Washington.

Some people still had to make it to work on time, though.

With her bank set to open on time, Joanne Swift of Suitland, Md., took a bus to the Metro to get to work downtown. As she made her way across a slick sidewalk, she declared what was on the mind of many this winter: "I am tired of the weather!"

"I really thought we had already made that turn into spring," she said. "But it's not piled high, so I guess this is reasonably OK."

Feds: 9/11 mastermind's testimony should be barred

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors on Monday tried to stop the self-described mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks from providing testimony at the terrorism trial of Osama bin Laden's son-in-law.

The government submitted written arguments asking U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan to exclude the words of Khalid Sheik Mohammed from Sulaiman Abu Ghaith's trial.

Abu Ghaith is on trial on charges he conspired to kill Americans and aided al-Qaida as the terror group's spokesman after Sept. 11. The 48-year-old onetime imam at a Kuwaiti mosque was brought to New York from Turkey last year.

Prosecutors said defense lawyers should be blocked from calling Mohammed as a witness through live, closed-circuit video from Guantanamo Bay, where he is imprisoned.

They cite the late request - the defense began its presentation by calling two FBI agents as witnesses on Monday - and the fact that Mohammed has insisted he will not testify. The judge scheduled arguments on the issue for Tuesday morning.

The defense asked to use Mohammed as a witness after reviewing a 14-page statement Mohammed provided in response to 451 questions posed by Abu Ghaith's lawyers.

In it, Mohammed wrote that he wanted to help Abu Ghaith but was distrustful of the source of the questions posed to him, saying they reminded him of interrogations he underwent after his 2003 capture.

He said Abu Ghaith did not play any military role in al-Qaida, a statement supporting defense arguments that he did not know about pending al-Qaida attacks when he warned on

a widely circulated video after Sept. 11, 2001, that "the storm of airplanes will not abate."

Mohammed also seemed to support the government's argument that Abu Ghaith played a key role in al-Qaida, saying fighting one of the world's super powers meant "we would have to resort to a long war of attrition to which the military and media alike contribute."

He said bin Laden put Abu Ghaith in charge for a time of al-Qaida's media operations, where workers did not know about specific terrorist plots because even "those carrying out the operations are not privy to the specific plans until the goal or the time of the operation approaches for fear that the operation will be botched or miscarried."

Mohammed said those tasked to speak on videos would be chosen if they were an "eloquent, spellbinding speaker."

Plaintiffs: No-fly list deprives due process right

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Thirteen people say their placement on the no-fly list deprives them of their due process rights, while lawyers defending the U.S. government say explaining such placement would involve classified information and endanger national security.

In August, U.S. District Court Judge Anna Brown's rejected the government's assertion that people on the no-fly list can travel by other means, and that being on the list does not deprive them of their liberty. She asked the government for more information about its redress procedure to help her determine whether it satisfied due process requirements for the plaintiffs.

Lawyers representing the government said in federal court in Portland, Ore., on Monday that a person's right to a hearing concerning his no-fly list status

is limited, given the national-security issues, and cautioned Brown not to "take over the policymaking" by writing new rules if she decides that the system is unfair.

The people seeking notice for their placement on the list were represented by lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union, who argued that the process is inherently unfair to its clients by refusing to tell them what evidence put them on the list and shutting them out of the appeals process.

No-fly list appeals go to a federal appellate court, which makes a decision based only on government input. That system, the ACLU argues, violates people's rights.

"No one denies that the government has an important national security interest," said ACLU attorney Hina Shamsi. "The question is

whether that interest is so all-encompassing that a citizen can be denied ... the fundamental right of due process?"

Shamsi said a better system would allow for people to challenge the unclassified portions of the information used to put them on the list, or to have their attorneys given security clearances to review classified material.

The government has never confirmed nor denied that the plaintiffs are on the list. Government attorney Amy Powell said the plaintiffs don't know whether they're on the no-fly list; they were merely denied boarding, which could have been for several reasons that have nothing to do with the no-fly list.

Powell said the constantly changing nature of the list means they may have been on it at one point, but have since been removed.

Asia

China finds no terror link to its nationals on jet

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Checks into the background of all the Chinese nationals on board the missing Malaysian jetliner have uncovered no links to terrorism, the Chinese ambassador in Kuala Lumpur said Tuesday.

The remarks will dampen speculation that Uighur Muslim separatists in far western Xinjiang province might have been involved with the disappearance of the Boeing 777 and its 239 passengers and crew early on March 8.

The plane was carrying 154 Chinese passengers, when Ma-

laysian officials say someone on board deliberately diverted it from its route to Beijing less than one hour into the flight. A massive search operation in the Indian Ocean and beyond has yet to find any trace of the plane.

Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia Huang Huikang said background checks on Chinese nationals didn't uncover any evidence suggesting they were involved in hijacking or an act of terrorism against the plane, according to the state Xinhua News Agency.

Uighur groups have been involved in attacks inside China,

Japan imposes sanctions on Russia over Crimea

TOKYO (AP)—Japan on Tuesday imposed some modest sanctions on Russia for its recognition of Crimea as an independent state—suspending talks on relaxing visa requirements between the two countries and talks on investment, space exploration and military cooperation.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said in a statement that Japan does not recognize the outcome of Crimea's referendum to split from Ukraine, saying it violates the Ukrainian constitution.

"It is regretful that Russia's recognition of the independence of Crimea interferes with the integrity of Ukraine's sovereignty and territory," Kishida told reporters. "We cannot overlook Russia's attempt to change the status quo by force."

The moves are seen as mild compared to sanctions by the U.S. and European Union, which have frozen the assets of individuals linked to the unrest in Crimea or who support the region's vote to secede

from Ukraine.

But Japanese officials said that an investment seminar sponsored by private institute but also backed by both governments that is scheduled for Wednesday was still on.

Ties between Russia and Japan have been strained for decades due to a dispute over a cluster of Russian-controlled islands off the northern island of Hokkaido called the southern Kurils in Russia and the Northern Territories in Japan. The dispute has kept the two countries from signing a peace treaty after World War II.

But last month, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that negotiations toward forging a treaty were accelerating. Abe is also eager to unleash new trade and energy business with Russia that has been hung up by the dispute.

Kishida urged Russia to comply with international laws, withdraw the recognition of Crimea's independence and not move further toward its annexation.



An unidentified woman wearing a mask depicting the flight of the missing Malaysia Airlines, MH370, poses in front of the "wall of hope" at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia, Monday, March 17, 2014.

and some have a presence in the Afghan-Pakistan border area, where al-Qaida and other transnational jihadi groups are based.

Malaysian police are investigating the pilots and ground engineers of the plane, and have asked intelligence agencies from countries with passengers on board to carry out background checks on those passengers.

Malaysian authorities say that someone on board the flight switched off two vital pieces of communication equipment, allowing the plane to fly almost undetected. Satellite data shows it might have ended up somewhere in a giant arc stretching from Central Asia to the southern reaches of the Indian Ocean.

Huang also said authorities in

Timeline of Malaysia Airlines flight disappearance

The sequence of events surrounding the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370:

- March 8, 12:41 a.m. The plane carrying 239 people leaves Kuala Lumpur heading to Beijing.
- 1:07 a.m. ACARS transmits its regular, half-hourly data report about the jet's engines and other data to the airline.
- 1:19 a.m. Someone, ap-

parently the co-pilot, makes the final voice communication from the cockpit, saying "All right, good night" to air-traffic controllers.

■ 1:20 a.m. The transponder shuts down, removing the plane's identification on commercial radar systems.

■ 1:37 a.m. An ACARS data transmission is due, but never sent.

■ 2:14 a.m. The plane is

last seen on military radar, heading west over the Strait of Malacca.

■ 8:11 a.m. A satellite records a faint, final "ping" from the disabled ACARS system. A broad arc of the jet's possible location stretches from Kazakhstan into the southern Indian Ocean.

■ About 8:40 a.m. The estimated end of the jet's fuel supply.

China had begun searching for the plane on its territory.

Malaysian police say they are investigating the possibility of hijacking, sabotage, terrorism or issues related to the mental health of the pilots or anyone else on board, but have yet to give any update on what they have uncovered.

Malaysian military radar spotted the plane in the northern reaches of the Strait of Malacca at 2:14 a.m. on March 8, just over 1 1/2 hours after it took off from Kuala Lumpur. That is the plane's last known confirmed position. A signal to a satellite from the plane at 8:11 a.m. suggests that, by then, it was somewhere in a broad arc spanning from Kazakhstan to the Indian Ocean west of Australia.

Investigators are scouring over what little data they have to try and determine who was in control of the plane when it stopped communicating. They have indicated that whoever was in control must have had aviation experience and knowledge of commercial flight paths.

On Monday, Malaysian Airlines CEO Ahmad Jauhari Yahya said an initial investigation indicated that the last words ground controllers heard from the plane—"All right, good night"—were spoken by the co-pilot, Fariq Abdul Hamid.

On Sunday, the defense minister Hishammuddin Hussein said this were spoken before the jetliner's data communications systems—the Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System—had been switched off, suggesting the voice from the cockpit was knowingly deceiving ground controllers.

But Ahmad made a potentially significant change to that timeline.

Speaking alongside Hishammuddin, he said that while the final data transmission from ACARS, which gives plane performance and maintenance information, came before the co-pilot's words, it was still unclear at what point the system was switched off.

The search for the plane is

one of the largest in aviation history, and now involves 26 countries.

It was initially focused on seas on either side of Peninsular Malaysia, in the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca. It has since expanded to include the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal and 11 countries to the northwest which the plane in theory could have crossed, including China and India.

But had the plane gone northwest to Central Asia, it would have crossed over countries with busy airspace. Some experts believe it more likely would have gone south, although Malaysian authorities are not ruling out the northern corridor and are eager for radar data that might confirm or rule out that.

U.S., Australian and Indonesian planes and ships are searching waters to the south of Indonesia's Sumatra Island all the way down to the southern reaches of the Indian Ocean, the world's third-deepest and one of the most remote stretches of water.

ACROSS THE NATION

Sri Lankan police arrest 2 human rights activists

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan anti-terrorist police have arrested two prominent human rights activists in the government's latest crackdown on rights defenders, colleagues and a media advocacy group said Monday. Both Ruki Fernando, an adviser for the Human Rights Documentation Center, and Catholic priest Praveen of the Center for Peace and Reconciliation have been prominent in promoting human rights and media freedom in the island's north, where government forces defeated separatist Tamil Tiger rebels in 2009. Sunil Jayasekara of the Free Media Movement, a local rights group, urged authorities to release them immediately.

Suicide bomber kills at least 13 in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says a suicide bomber riding a rickshaw has blown himself up at a market, killing at least 13 civilians in northern Afghanistan. The official

says the attacker was approaching a checkpoint at the entry of the market in Maimana, the capital of Faryab province, when he detonated his explosives. Provincial Gov. Mohammadullah Patash says at least 13 people were killed and dozens more were wounded in Tuesday's attack.

Lippo, Caesars to open casino resort in SKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea said a consortium of Caesars Entertainment and Indonesia's Lippo conglomerate has received a preliminary license to build a casino-resort near the country's largest airport, stepping up competition among Asian countries to lure Chinese tourists. The Indonesian-U.S. consortium plans to spend 743.7 billion won (\$696 million) to open a casino town in Incheon in 2018, South Korea's culture ministry said in a statement Tuesday. It is the first South Korean casino license given to foreign investors, though a final approval is pending.

World

Putin recognizes Crimean independence

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ignoring the toughest sanctions against Moscow since the end of the Cold War, Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula as an "independent and sovereign country" on Monday, a bold challenge to Washington that escalates one of Europe's worst security crises in years.

The brief decree posted on the Kremlin's website came just hours after the United States and the European Union announced asset freezes and other sanctions against Russian and Ukrainian officials involved in the Crimean crisis. President Barack Obama warned that more would come if Russia didn't stop interfering in Ukraine, and Putin's move clearly forces his hand.

The West has struggled to find leverage to force Moscow to back off in the Ukraine turmoil, of which Crimea is only a part, and analysts saw Monday's sanctions as mostly ineffectual.

Moscow showed no signs of flinching in the dispute that has roiled Ukraine since Russian troops took effective control of the strategic Black Sea peninsula last month and supported the Sunday referendum that overwhelmingly called for annexation by Russia. Recognizing Crimea as independent would be an interim step in absorbing the region.

Crimea had been part of Russia since the 18th century, until Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred it to Ukraine in 1954 and both Russians and Crimea's majority ethnic Russian population see annexation as correcting a historic insult.

Ukraine's turmoil - which began in November with a wave of protests against President Viktor Yanukovich and accelerated after he fled to Russia in late February - has become Europe's most severe security crisis in years.

Russia, like Yanukovich himself, characterizes his ouster as a coup, and alleges the new

authorities are fascist-minded and likely to crack down on Ukraine's ethnic Russian population. Pro-Russia demonstrations have broken out in several cities in eastern Ukraine near the Russian border, where the Kremlin has been massing troops.

Fearing that Russia is prepared to risk violence to make a land-grab, the West has consistently spoken out against Russia's actions but has run into a wall of resistance from Moscow.

Reacting to Monday's sanctions, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov declared that they were "a reflection of a pathological unwillingness to acknowledge reality and a desire to impose on everyone one-sided and unbalanced approaches that absolutely ignore reality."

"I think the decree of the president of the United States was written by some joker," Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, one of the individuals hit by the sanctions, said on his Twitter account.

The White House imposed asset freezes on seven Russian officials, including Putin's close ally Valentina Matvienko, who is speaker of the upper house of parliament, and Vladislav Surkov, one of Putin's top ideological aides. The Treasury Department also targeted Yanukovich, Crimean leader Sergei Aksyonov and two other top figures.

The EU's foreign ministers slapped travel bans and asset freezes against 21 officials from Russia and Ukraine.

"We need to show solidarity with Ukraine, and therefore Russia leaves us no choice," Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski told reporters in Brussels.

Despite Obama's vow of tougher measures, stock markets in Russia and Europe rose sharply, reflecting relief that trade and business ties were spared.

"I guess the market view is



Crimea votes to join Russia

The U.S. and its European allies are expected to announce sanctions against Russia after Crimea voted, by a nearly 97 percent margin, in support of leaving Ukraine and becoming a Russian province.

At a glance

- **Status** Autonomous republic within Ukraine
 - **Size** 10,077 sq. mi. (26,100 sq. km)
 - **Population, 2012** 2 million
- Ethnic Russian 58.5% Ethnic Ukrainian 24.4% Other 5.4% Crimean Tatars 12.1%
- **Language** 77 percent speak Russian as native language
 - **Main industries** Tourism, agriculture, mining; Russian Black Sea Fleet stationed at Sevastopol

Source: BBC, Reuters
Graphic: Pat Carr
© 2014 MCT

History in brief

- **1443** After centuries under Greek and Roman influence, became the center of a Tatar Khanate, then part of the Ottoman Empire
- **Mid-18th century** Falls under Russian influence
- **1853-1856** Crimean War - Britain and France try to limit Russian influence in the region
- **1917** Becomes autonomous republic within Russia after the Bolshevik revolution
- **1940s** Occupied by Germany during World War II; Stalin deports Tatars accusing them of collaboration; many perish
- **1954** Transferred to Ukraine
- **2014** Votes to join Russian Federation

that Russia forced their case in Crimea, pushed through the referendum, and the Western reaction was muted, so that this opens the way for future Russian intervention in Ukraine," said Tim Ash, an analyst who follows Ukraine at Standard Bank PLC.

On Monday evening Vice President Joe Biden was heading to Europe to meet with NATO allies. He was headed for Warsaw, where he was slated to meet Tuesday with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and President Bronislaw

Komorowski. He was to meet separately with Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves. In Lithuania, Biden planned to meet with President Dalia Grybauskaitė and Latvia's President Andris Berzins.

In the Crimean capital of Simferopol, ethnic Russians applauded Sunday's referendum that overwhelmingly called for secession and for joining Russia. Masked men in body armor blocked access for most journalists to the parliament session that declared independence, but the city otherwise appeared to go about its business normally.

Ukraine penalty: US, Europe order Russia sanctions

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unsuccessful with previous threats, the United States and its European allies stepped up their pressure on Russia to end its intervention in Ukraine on Monday by imposing the most comprehensive sanctions against Russian officials since the Cold War.

Acting in concert with Europe, the Obama administration froze the U.S. assets of seven Russian officials, including top advisers to President Vladimir Putin, for their support of Crimea's vote to secede from Ukraine, while similar sanctions were imposed on four Ukrainian officials for instigating Sunday's Crimean referendum.

Although the threat of sanctions has failed thus far to persuade Putin to drop support for Crimea's secession and potential entry into the Russian Federation - or to pull back from threatening military moves near Ukraine's south and east - President Barack Obama said failure to step back now would draw more severe consequences.

"If Russia continues to interfere in Ukraine, we stand ready to impose further sanctions," Obama declared at the White House shortly after the penalties were announced. He noted that Vice President Joe Biden would be traveling to Europe late Monday to reassure Eastern European leaders of America's commitment to them and that he himself would be going next week on a previously planned trip to make a similar point. Secretary of State John Kerry also is expected in Europe in the coming days.

"We'll continue to make clear to Russia that further

provocations will achieve nothing except to further isolate Russia and diminish its place in the world," he said. "The international community will continue to stand together to oppose any violations of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, and continued Russian military intervention in Ukraine will only deepen Russia's diplomatic isolation and exact a greater toll on the Russian economy."

But administration critics said Obama's actions were too little to convince Putin of anything.

"I think Vladimir Putin must be encouraged by the absolute timidity," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who had just returned from a weekend trip to Kiev.

"I don't know how it could have been weaker, besides doing nothing - seven people being sanctioned after naked aggression has taken place," he told MSNBC.

Shortly after Obama's comments, Putin recognized Crimea as a "sovereign and independent country."

Residents in Crimea, a strategic Black Sea peninsula, voted overwhelmingly Sunday in favor of the split, and Crimea's parliament declared the region an independent state on Monday. In Washington, Obama administration officials said there was evidence that some ballots for the referendum had arrived pre-marked in many cities and there were "massive anomalies" in the vote. The officials did not say what that evidence was. The officials spoke to reporters on a conference call on the condition they not be quoted by name.

107-year-old Syrian, family reunited in Germany

BERLIN (AP)—A 107-year-old woman who fled the conflict in Syria has arrived in Germany to be reunited with her family, including her newborn great-great-granddaughter, officials said Monday.

Sabria Khalaf had fled her home in Syria seven months ago with her son Kenan, travelling to Turkey and then on to Greece, the dpa news agency reported.

Khalaf was greeted by about 20 members of her family, including grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her 33-day-old great-great-granddaughter, according to dpa.

Under European Union rules refugees have to apply for asylum in the first member state they reach, putting a heavy burden on Mediterranean nations like Greece, where Khalaf had spent the last two months.

A spokesman for the Office for Migrants and Refugees, Christoph Sander, said a decision was made to expedite Khalaf's transfer to Germany on humanitarian grounds.

The move followed an article about Khalaf, a member of Syria's Kurdish minority, in Munich daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung earlier this month. The

report caught the attention of a lawmaker who urged German President Joachim Gauck to intervene on her behalf and expedite the bureaucratic process, dpa reported.

Germany has committed to take in 10,000 Syrian refugees, the highest number of any European country.

According to the United Nations, some two million Syrians have sought refuge abroad - mostly in neighboring countries - since the conflict began three years ago. That number could double by the end of the year, the global body has warned.

Paris takes drastic measures to fight toxic smog

PARIS (AP)—Paris imposed drastic measures Monday to combat its worst air pollution in years, banning around half of the city's cars and trucks from its streets for a day in an attempt to reduce the toxic smog that's shrouded the City of Light for more than a week.

Cars with even-numbered license plates were prohibited from driving in Paris and its suburbs. Around 700 police manned 179 control points around the region, handing out tickets to offenders. Taxis and commercial vehicles weren't covered by the ban.

Police had ticketed nearly 4,000 people by midday, and 27

drivers had their cars impounded for refusing to cooperate with officers.

France has seen exceptionally warm, dry weather this month with little wind, which has trapped car pollution and fumes from seasonal farming activity in the air. France's unusually high number of diesel vehicles is also contributing to the smog.

Environment Minister Philippe Martin said lower traffic and favorable weather patterns were having an impact on pollution Monday, and that the alternate-plates measure would be lifted Tuesday.

It was the first time since 1997 that the measure was taken.

All public transport has been free for four days straight to help deal with the pollution - but that too is set to end Tuesday.

Paris' anti-pollution efforts trail behind those of some other cities.

Athens has had a similar alternate driving ban in place for many years that has reduced pollution and traffic. In Brazil, Sao Paulo employs a complicated license plate-based system that assigns each car a day of the week when it cannot be driven during rush hours.

Berlin has strict rules on what kind of cars can enter the city, and London makes drivers pay a "congestion charge" to drive in the center of town.

Focus

Missing jet reveals uncomfortable Malaysian truths

By CHRIS BRUMMITT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—It's apparently a challenge to find people satisfied with the Malaysian government's performance in its search for Flight 370: A mainstream daily newspaper here ran a story Monday on praise being lav-

ished by an anonymous Facebook user from Sweden.

The mysterious disappearance of a Boeing 777 with 239 people aboard would test any government, but Malaysia's is particularly strained because its elite are accustomed to getting an easy ride. Decades in power and a pliant media have cushioned them from scrutiny.

26 nations search land, sea for Malaysian jetliner

Twenty-six countries are involved in the massive international search for the Malaysia Airlines jetliner that disappeared on March 8 with 239 people aboard. They include not just military assets on land, at sea and in the air, but also investigators and the specific support and assistance requested by Malaysia, such as radar and satellite information.

Here's a look at major countries and their response:

MALAYSIA

Malaysia, which is coordinating the search, has deployed about 18 aircraft and 27 ships, including the submarine support vessel MV Mega Bakti, which can detect objects at a depth of up to 1,000 meters (3,280 feet).

AUSTRALIA

Australia has sent two AP-3C Orion aircraft, one of which is searching north and west of the Cocos Islands in the southern Indian Ocean, and plans to deploy two more by midday Tuesday. Australia's defense department is refusing to say whether Malaysia has asked Australia to divulge any radar information, but Prime Minister Tony Abbott said all Australian agencies are "are scouring their data to see if there's anything they can add to the understanding of this mystery."

CHINA

The Chinese Civil Aviation Authority says the plane did not enter Chinese airspace. China has deployed nine navy ships and civilian patrol vessels and a variety of fixed-wing and rotary aircraft, along with a team of experts dispatched to Malaysia.

UNITED STATES

A P-8A Poseidon, the most advanced long-range anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare aircraft in the world, has been searching in the Indian Ocean. The U.S. Navy also has deployed the destroyer

USS Kidd with two MH-60R helicopters.

KAZAKHSTAN

The Transportation Ministry said no unauthorized flights have been detected. The Central Asian nation is the farthest northwest the plane could have flown, given satellite data on its past locations and its fuel limits.

INDONESIA

Indonesian air force spokesman Hadi Tjahjanto says military radars on Sumatra island found no trace of the jetliner and that data requested by the Malaysian government had been handed over. He says that search efforts have shifted from the Malacca Strait to the corridor stretching from northern Sumatra to the Indian Ocean.

PAKISTAN

The director general of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority, Muhammed Yousaf, says radar recordings shared with Malaysia found no sign of the jetliner.

INDIA

India halted its search operations in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and continues to coordinate with Malaysia about possible new search areas.

THAILAND

Royal Thai Air Force spokesman Montol Suchookorn says the Thai military gave its radar data to Malaysia on March 10 and has not received any additional requests. The Royal Thai Navy suspended its search mission in the Gulf of Thailand and South China Sea on Saturday.

OTHERS

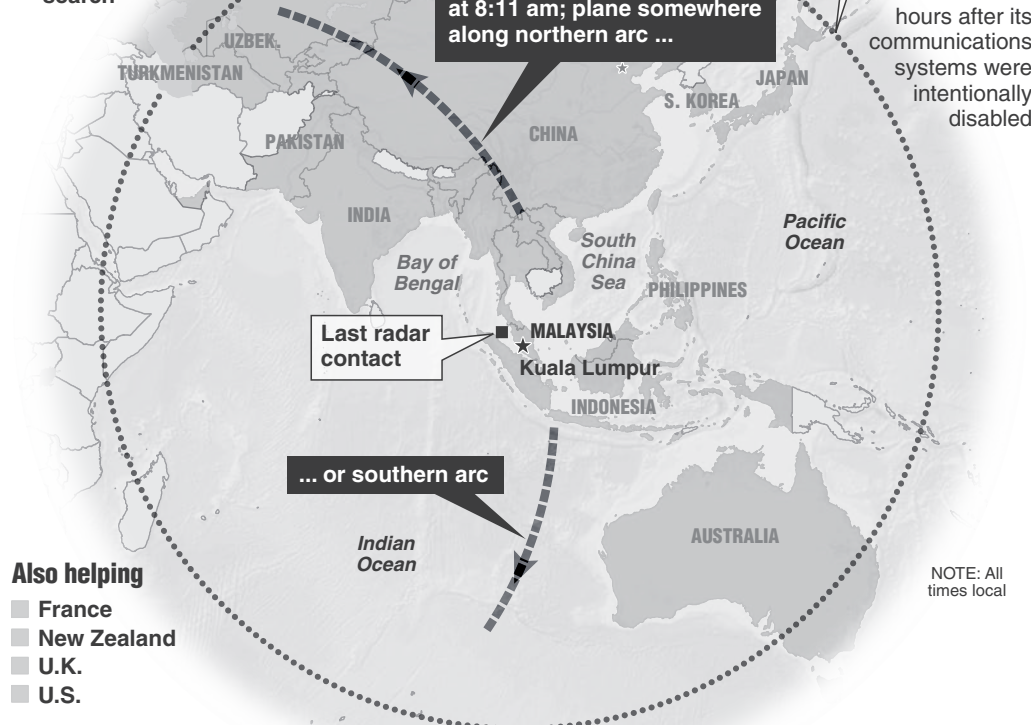
Other nations involved are Bangladesh, Brunei, France, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, U.K., Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

Search continues for MH370

More than 25 countries are involved in the massive international search for the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner; authorities are requesting that countries share data from satellite and radar.

Pinpointing location

■ Countries aiding in search



Also helping

■ France
■ New Zealand
■ U.K.
■ U.S.

Last communications

- At 1:07 am final words from cockpit "All right, good night" transmitted
- Transponder stopped signaling about 1:20 am
- Even after disabled, satellite detected evidence of plane at 8:11 am

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Source: ESRI, DeLorme, IPC, GEBCO, Geonames.org, NAVTEQ, NOAA, NRCAN, The New York Times, The Washington Post, AP, CNN
Graphic: Robert Dorrell, Mellina Yingling

Its civilian and military leaders have struggled to provide answers from Day One of the crisis, when it took several hours to even declare the plane missing. They said early on that the plane may have doubled back, but took days to say it was military radar that suggested that and days more to confirm it.

In response to criticism, government officials have repeatedly said they must wait to confirm information before they can release it. But that has not prevented them from making mistakes.

On Monday, the defense minister said police visited the homes of the jet's two pilots soon after the March 8 disappearance, contradicting the country's police chief, who had said officers did not go there until a week later. The minister also raised doubts about earlier reports from Malaysian officials that a key data communications system had been turned off before the cockpit spoke to air-traffic controllers - a detail that has increased speculation that the pilots were responsible.

China, where most of the passengers are from, has been especially dismayed that it took a week for Malaysia to come

A closer look

- Investigation is focusing on plane being deliberately diverted
- Flight simulator seized from pilot's home; co-pilot's home also searched
- Investigators are checking backgrounds of all 227 passengers, 12 crew members as well as ground crew

up with details on the plane's possible location. The official Xinhua News Agency said the delay "smacks of either dereliction of duty or reluctance to share information."

Passengers' relatives, holed up in hotels in Kuala Lumpur and Beijing and desperate for word, have picked up on rumors and false leads in the media before the government has, adding to their anguish.

Asked on Monday by a foreign reporter about the criticism, Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said it was baseless. "I have got a lot of feedback saying we have been very responsible in our actions," said Hishammuddin, the main face of the government's response to the crisis. "It's very irresponsible of you to say that."

The disappearance of the jet touches on issues that officials normally wouldn't discuss publicly. The incident now appears certain to be a security failure at some level of the government, and has raised questions about the national airline and the defense readiness of the air force, which was unable to quickly spot a jetliner in Malaysian airspace and off its flight path. The

Challenges ahead

- Southern Indian Ocean is world's third deepest and one of the most remote stretches of water in the world
- Still a lot of factors unknown, most importantly motive and if the two pilots were involved, if they flew under duress or their own free will

possibility of Islamist militant involvement is also highly sensitive in the multiethnic country.

"In Malaysian political culture, they are not used to answering questions straight and honestly," said Bridget Welsh, a political scientist from the Singapore Management University. "They are used to 'government knows best for government,' and have been very slow in realizing this is not a Malaysia crisis - this has global effects."

Malaysia has enjoyed rapid economic growth since it gained independence from Britain more than half a century ago. Although nominally a democracy, the same ruling coalition has been in power for more than five decades, helped by gerrymandering and affirmative action policies that have won the support of the ethnic Malay majority.

But in recent years the government's grip on power has weakened; the ruling coalition didn't win the popular vote for the first time in elections last year, though it managed to hold on to power. The plane disappeared the morning after a court convicted opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim of sodomy, a verdict widely seen as politically motivated. It has

since emerged that the pilot was a supporter of Anwar, though that has not been widely reported in government media.

Greg Barton, a Southeast Asia expert at Australia's Monash University, said the country has a tradition of distrusting the West, a "third worldism" political philosophy that was a legacy of the pugnacious rule of former Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir.

"There is a natural instinct not to ask for too much Western help," he said. "It's made it hard for the government to move quickly."

Malaysian officials have said they are working with foreign experts and countries, including the sharing of sensitive radar and satellite data.

Apart from online news portals, the print and television media in Malaysia are unabashedly pro-government.

"Stop bashing SAR (search and rescue) efforts, says Swede FB user," read the headline in the mass circulation New Straits Times, which went on to quote at length from the Facebook page of the anonymous Swede defending the government.

"Can you imagine the burden they (the government) carry on their shoulders and how much precaution they have to take before announcing anything?" the Swede was quoted as posting on his account. "No. Because you are not in their shoes."

The government said soon after the jet disappeared that there were indications it might have turned back from its last known position over the South China Sea after it stopped communicating with the ground, but didn't fully explain why. It took a week for it to confirm that military radar data had confirmed the plane had flown over the country and then north toward the Indian Ocean.

"There is a bit of haziness there," said Ibrahim Suffian, the head of the Merdeka Center, a Malaysian political research institute.

Like several others, Ibrahim said he thought the government's media management had improved in recent days, perhaps because they had contracted a crisis management company to advise them.

The fact that the air force didn't apparently spot or react to the jet flying across its airspace has brought the military unusual scrutiny. Some aviation analysts have said authorities were slow in tracing the plane, in shifting the search area from the South China Sea, and in investigating the pilots' background. Suspicion has fallen on the pilots, although Malaysian officials have said they are looking into everyone aboard the flight.

Campus Life

Food pantries on the rise at US college campuses

STONY BROOK, N.Y. (AP)—Days after biology major Gillian Carll arrived at Stony Brook University last fall, she encountered a young woman on a bench outside her dormitory who said she had nothing to eat.

"I was just like, 'Oh, my gosh!' I didn't know kids could afford to go here but couldn't have mac and cheese or something like that," said the Livonia, N.Y., freshman. "It was kind of unbelievable."

Carll got the student some food from her dorm room and later volunteered at Stony Brook's new food pantry—one of dozens cropping up at colleges across the country in recent years as educators acknowledge the struggles many students face as the cost of getting a higher education continues to soar.

"The perception is of college students that if you are able to go to college and you have an opportunity to go to college, you're part of the haves of this country, not part of the have-nots," said Beth McGuire-Fredericks, assistant director for college housing at the Stony Brook campus on eastern Long Island and a co-founder of the pantry.

"How can someone who's in college be someone who has a need like food?"

Tuition alone has become a growing burden, rising 27 percent at public colleges and 14 percent at private schools in the past five years, according to the College Board. Add in expenses for books, housing and other necessities of college life and some are left to choose between eating and learning. Also, most students enrolled in college at least half time are not eligible



In this photo taken on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at Stony Brook University, students Ruby Escalera-Nater and Will Addison fill a bag of food to give to guests at the college's recently opened food pantry. Officials say there are a growing number of food pantries opening on college campuses across the country to assist students contending with rising education costs.

for food stamps.

"A lot of schools are coming to the realization that this is important," said Nate Smith-Tyge, director of the Michigan State University Food Bank and co-founder of the College and University Food Bank Alliance, which represents about 50 college food banks across the country.

Most of them started in the

past four or five years and are run by the colleges or student groups. Smith-Tyge estimates there may be another 50 food pantries on campuses that have yet to join his organization.

"That doesn't surprise me at all," said Richard Vedder, director of the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, a research organization that has linked the trend of ris-

ing college tuitions, in part, to higher personnel costs.

Vedder said it was a "little bit hypocritical" of colleges to say they are helping their students. "They wouldn't need pantries if they hadn't raised prices," he said.

Clare Cady, a co-founder of the Food Bank Alliance and head of the Oregon State University food bank, said the pro-

files of recipients vary from undergraduate students who have opted for cheaper meal plans that give students fewer dining options to people dealing with unexpected economic hardships to students raising children while struggling to pay tuition.

"Some of these students are deeply committed to earning a degree and are making very difficult choices," Cady said.

At Stony Brook, where the average cost for an undergraduate residential student - tuition, fees, room and board - is \$19,358 a year, officials opened the food pantry last year after learning that students had started a website sharing information about campus events where free food was being offered.

"We were hearing rumblings around campus that said students were running out of meal points at the end of the semester," said Casey McGloin, a food pantry co-founder.

"We wanted to serve both the students who were hurting in that they didn't have enough to eat period throughout the day and also the students who could only afford to buy pizza or ramen," she said.

When the doors opened last September, more than 50 students were waiting to be helped. The pantry, which is located in a dormitory basement, is open two nights a week. The pantry provided more than 500 bags of staples like pasta, fruit, vegetables, tuna, breakfast bars and other items in the first semester, McGloin said. Some students have opted to hand back some of the items in the bag, telling volunteers they only need a can of soup or other item to get them through the night.

Greeshma Johnson, a 19-year-old health science major from Queens Village, N.Y., said she opted for a less-expensive meal plan at Stony Brook to save money and uses the food pantry to supplement her dining options. "The food pantry allows us to have something extra in case you get hungry," she said. "Every year, tuition gets a little higher."

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Nothing sparks consumer demand like the word "free," and politicians in some states have proposed the idea of providing that incentive to get young people to attend community college.

Amid worries that U.S. youth are losing a global skills race, supporters of a no-tuition policy see expanding access to community college as way to boost educational attainment so the emerging workforces in their states look good to employers.

Of course, such plans aren't free for taxpayers, and legislators in Oregon and Tennessee are deciding whether free tuition regardless of family income is the best use of public money. A Mississippi bill passed the state House, but then failed in the Senate.

The debate comes in a mid-term election year in which income inequality and the burdens of student debt are likely

States looking at \$0 community college tuition

going to be significant issues.

"I think everybody agrees that with a high school education by itself, there is no path to the middle class," said State Sen. Mark Hass, who is leading the no-tuition effort in Oregon. "There is only one path, and it leads to poverty. And poverty is very expensive."

Hass said free community college and increasing the number of students who earn college credit while in high school are keys to addressing a "crisis" in education debt. Taxpayers will ultimately benefit, he said, because it's cheaper to send someone to community college than to have him or her in the social safety net.

Research from the Oregon University System shows Oregonians with only a high school degree make less money than those with a degree and thus

contribute fewer tax dollars. They are also more likely to use food stamps and less likely to do volunteer work.

A Gallup poll released in late February found 94 percent of Americans believe it's somewhat or very important to have a degree beyond high school, yet only 23 percent of respondents said higher education is affordable to everyone who needs it.

As at four-year universities, the price of attending a community college has risen sharply because of reduced state support and higher costs for health care and other expenses. The average annual cost of tuition nationally is about \$3,300, and books and fees add to the bill.

It's cheaper than university, but expensive enough to dissuade someone who's unsure whether to pursue higher education.

In Tennessee, Republican Gov. Bill Haslam wants to use lottery money to create a free community college program for high school graduates. It's central to the Republican's goal of making the state more attractive to potential employers by increasing the percentage of Tennesseans with a college degree to 55 percent by 2025 from 32 percent now.

If approved by the Legislature, the "Tennessee Promise" would provide a full ride for any high school graduate, at a cost of \$34 million per year.

Meanwhile, Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber signed a bill March 11 ordering a state commission to examine whether free tuition is feasible. Among other things, the study will determine how much money the program will cost, whether the existing campus buildings can

accommodate extra students and whether to limit free tuition to recent graduates.

The commission will also look at California, which offered no-cost community college until the mid-1980s, when a state fiscal crisis contributed to its demise.

The findings are due later this year and will help lawmakers decide whether to pursue the idea in 2015.

"What is exciting to us about the idea is that it signals that the state understands there needs to be significant reinvestment in community colleges in some way, shape or form," said Mary Spilde, the president of Lane Community College in Eugene, Ore., where in-state students pay \$93 per credit hour. Back in 1969-70, baby boomers paid \$6 per credit hour—about \$37 in today's money, adjusted for inflation.

Tennessee and Oregon are looking at the "last-dollar in"

model, where the state picks up the tuition not covered by other forms of aid. Because students from poor families often get their tuition covered by Pell Grants and other programs, the state money would disproportionately help those from more comfortable backgrounds.

"If you're paying for two years for everybody, then you're paying for students whose families can afford to do it," said Kay McClenney, director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas. "And is that your best use of dollars within the public interest?"

There are other concerns. Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education, generally praised the bills, but said students are more likely to be successful if they have "skin in the game" and pay something toward their education.

Life & Style

Designer Scott, girlfriend of Jagger, found dead

NEW YORK (AP)—L'Wren Scott, who left her small-town Utah home as a teenager to become a model in Paris, then a top Hollywood stylist and finally a high-end fashion designer best known as the longtime girlfriend of Mick Jagger, has died in what was being investigated as an apparent suicide.

Scott was found dead in her Manhattan apartment at 10 a.m. Monday; no note was found and there was no sign of foul play, police said. The designer had texted her assistant 90 minutes earlier and asked her to come to her apartment but didn't say why. She was found kneeling with a scarf wrapped around her neck that had been tied to the handle of a French door, police said.

Her spokesperson requested privacy for her family and friends. Just last month Scott, who was believed to be 49 but had not disclosed her precise age, canceled her London Fashion Week show, due to reported production delays.

Jagger's representative said the singer was "completely shocked and devastated by the news" of her death.

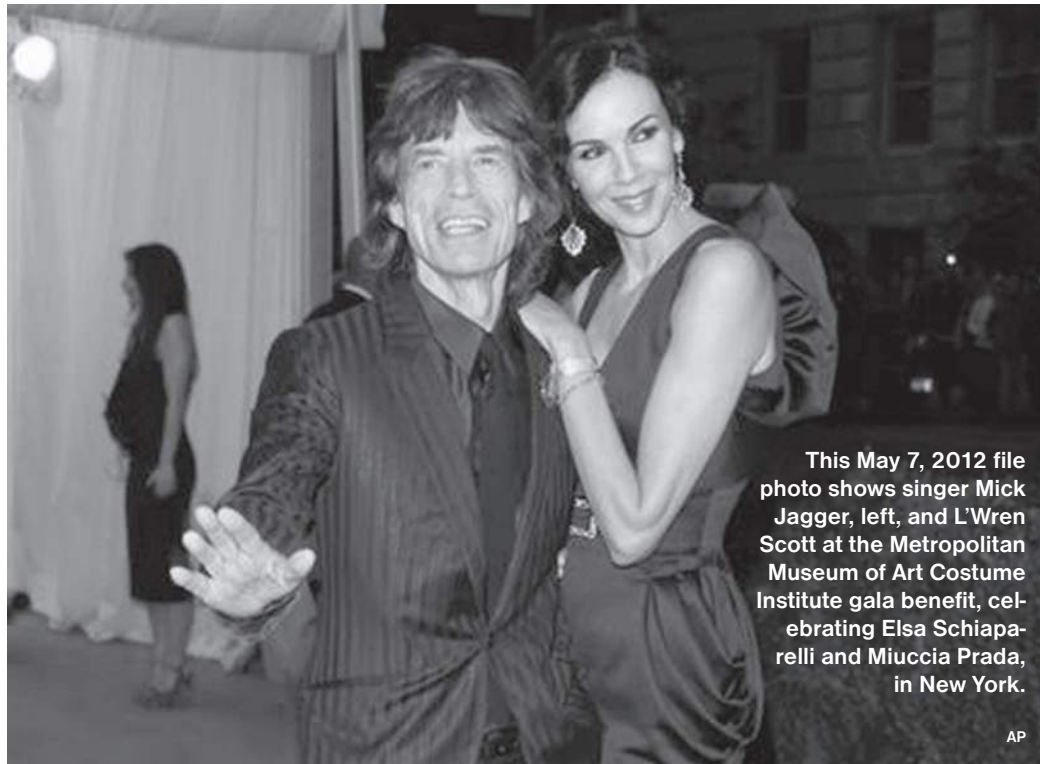
Scott, whose elegant designs in lush fabrics were favored by celebrities like Madonna, Nicole Kidman, Oprah Winfrey, Penelope Cruz and first lady Michelle Obama, was a fixture on Jagger's arm since she met the Rolling Stones frontman in 2001. On red carpets, the striking 6-foot-3 designer towered over her famous 5-foot-10 boyfriend.

In 2006, five years after they became a couple, Scott founded her eponymous label, with an initial collection based on the "Little Black Dress." She became known for designs that had a vintage feel and bared little skin, like her famous "head-mistress" dress - prim, with three-quarter sleeves, but also close-fitting and stylish.

Madonna was one of those who wore the dress. "This is a horrible and tragic loss," the singer said in a statement released by her publicist. "I'm so upset. I loved L'Wren's work and she was always so generous with me."

Anna Wintour, editor in chief of Vogue, called Scott "a total perfectionist, someone who absolutely embodied everything her marvelous clothes stood for: strength of character combined with a confident and powerful style. In person, L'Wren was always unbelievably generous, gracious, kind, and so much fun. Her old world American manners and charm were from another time, but her sensibility was always fiercely modern."

And supermodel Naomi Campbell, a close friend, wrote on WhoSay that Scott was "the



This May 7, 2012 file photo shows singer Mick Jagger, left, and L'Wren Scott at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala benefit, celebrating Elsa Schiaparelli and Miuccia Prada, in New York.

AP

epitome of elegance and femininity yet still had a girlish quality. I will miss her honesty and I will miss her friendship. My heart goes out to Mick and all who loved her and were loved by her."

In 2009 Scott introduced a shoe collection, and in 2010 she collaborated with Lancome on a makeup line and a fragrance. In 2011 came a handbag line, in 2012 an eyewear collection, and late last year, a collaboration with Banana Republic for a line of affordable clothes.

Though her studio is based in London, Scott presented her runway shows in New York until recently. They were exclusive A-list affairs like few others.

In February 2012, for example, the designer welcomed guests into the wood-paneled, chandeliered banquet hall of an Edwardian building in Chelsea. Guests were offered white wine in tall glasses as they entered, then were seated at a long table. Before them were plates of caviar, served with a baked potato and sour cream. Fiddling with the lighting and the technical details was none other than Jagger, who also stood next to Scott during post-show interviews.

Adding to the sense of luxury, Scott was known to send huge bouquets of roses and handwritten notes of thanks to reporters afterward.

Her clothes were luxurious, too, making ample use of velvet and satin. There were bolero jackets and tea-length dresses, long capes - lined in feathers, perhaps - and high-waisted pencil skirts.

Scott's designs were "very (much) based on her own personal style ... a very interesting style that combined the strict and the sexy," said Valerie Steele, director of The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. "Not sexiness like body exposure, but sexiness like a very strict governess. They tended to be covered up yet form-fitting and beautifully constructed, beautifully made." Steele said Scott's clothes were

"were more sophisticated than the average red carpet gown" and added that Scott "had a very precise vision of what she wanted them to look like."

Scott was adopted by Mormon parents and raised in Roy, Utah, which had a population of less than 10,000 at the time.

As a teenager, she developed a love of clothes and made her own on the sewing machine, according to biographical notes from London Fashion Week. She made her way to Paris after high school where, aided by her height and striking looks, she found work as a model for some prominent photographers.

But she became more interested in working with clothes than modeling them, and eventually made her name as a top stylist in Los Angeles and also a costume designer for films like "Ocean's 13."

Scott also designed a huge wardrobe for boyfriend Jagger to wear during the Rolling Stones' "50 and Counting" anniversary tour. The band is currently on its "14 On Fire" tour, scheduled to play six concerts in Australia beginning Wednesday in Perth, according to the RollingStones.com website.

Among the stars who wore Scott's designs was actress Olivia Wilde.

"L'Wren Scott was brilliant, elegant, kind, and generous," Wilde wrote on Twitter. "What a tragedy."

Scott is survived by a brother, Randall Bambrough of Ogden, Utah, who declined comment.

Arts patron, heiress Rachel 'Bunny' Mellon dead

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Rachel "Bunny" Mellon, a wealthy arts and fashion patron, friend of first lady Jacqueline Kennedy and political benefactor who funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to former presidential candidate John Edwards that was used to hide his mistress, died Monday. She was 103.

Mellon's family and her longtime personal attorney said she died of natural causes at her beloved 4,000-acre Oak Spring Farms in Virginia's horse country, where she entertained royalty, stars and politicians but from which she rarely ventured.

Her death was confirmed by Alexander Forger, her personal attorney for the past 40 years, and her grandson Thomas Lloyd.

Mellon lived a closely guarded life dominated by the arts, fashion, horses, rare books and extraordinary gardens.

"She was involved in the business of nature and beauty, design and implementation," Forger said.

After spending most of her life trying to avoid the spotlight, she was thrust into it when Edwards was indicted in 2011 for using what prosecutors alleged was campaign money, including \$750,000 from Mellon, to hide mistress Rielle Hunter and their child during Edwards' 2008 Democratic presidential bid. A jury later acquitted him on a campaign finance charge and deadlocked on five other felony counts. Mellon was not accused of breaking any laws.

Friends said Mellon should be remembered more for her contributions to the world of horticulture, art and fashion than the scandal that



AP

In this Aug. 17, 1961, file photo, Jacqueline Kennedy and her Cape Cod neighbor Bunny Mellon step into the lobby of the Colonial Theatre in Boston during intermission of Noel Coward's new musical "Sail Away."

marked her last years.

"She's a remarkable person," said her friend, interior designer Bryan Huffman of North Carolina. "The last standing true American aristocrat."

Rachel Lowe Lambert Lloyd Mellon's mother gave her the pet name, "Bunny," which stuck with her throughout her life, Huffman said.

Her grandfather, Jordan W. Lambert, created Listerine. Her father, Gerald Lambert, built a company that made everything from Dentyne to Schick razors before it was sold to Pfizer for \$110 billion in 2000.

In 1932, she married Stacy Barcroft Lloyd Jr., a businessman and horse breeder. After their divorce, she married his friend Paul Mellon - at the time, reportedly, the world's richest man. Paul Mellon, a renowned art collector, philanthropist and thoroughbred breeder, died in 1999 at age 91.

Huffman, who introduced Mellon to Edwards, said the former presidential candidate reminded her of John Kennedy.

"She liked what he said about the 'Two Americas,'" Huffman said. "She believed deeply in what he was saying."

Edwards aide Andrew Young, who wrote about Mellon and Edwards' relationship in his tell-all book "The Politician," said Mellon became so distraught when the media attacked Edwards over a \$400 haircut that she sent him a letter offering to help. Mellon eventually gave Edwards more than \$6 million, Young said.

He said Mellon wrote in her letter, "... from now on, all haircuts, etc. that are necessary and important for his campaign - please send the bills to me ... It is a way to help our friend without government restrictions."

Young described how the campaign used the so-called Bunny Money to hide Hunter. Mellon sent checks to Huffman inside boxes of chocolate, and Huffman would direct them to the campaign, Young wrote. Mellon's attorney said she had no

idea the money was going to hide a mistress.

"She was not looking for an ambassadorial" appointment, Huffman said. "She has always cared greatly beyond herself."

Her grandson, Lloyd, said, "I think she was trying to help (Edwards) for the right reasons, believed in him, and I think frankly he just took advantage of a lot of opportunities that she gave him."

Huffman said his friend remained in good spirits despite the Edwards distraction. She had endured worse, including the 2008 death of her daughter Eliza, who had been left quadriplegic when hit by a car years earlier. She had a son, Stacy Barcroft Lloyd III, and two step-children, Timothy Mellon and Catherine Warner. The daughter was married to former U.S. Sen. John Warner.

Mellon was a "legend in design and gardening circles" who had a low-key style that was eloquent but unpretentious, Huffman said.

"She's not sitting around in velvet covered gold chairs. That's the antithesis of what her style would be," he said. "She is without the trappings someone would associate with an heiress."

When she was around 5 years old, her father let her have a little garden at home, planting the seed for her lifelong love of horticulture, he said.

A self-taught botanist, Mellon was tapped by her friend Jacqueline Kennedy to design the White House Rose Garden. She created another White House garden that was named in honor of Kennedy after her death. Mellon's Oak Spring Garden Library, which houses her collection of rare books, manuscripts, works of art and other pieces relating to her hobbies, is one of the largest repositories of horticultural information and is visited by scholars worldwide.

On the media buffet, people still seek meaty news

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans of all ages still pay heed to serious news even as they seek out the lighter stuff, choosing their own way across a media landscape that no longer relies on front pages and evening newscasts to dictate what's worth knowing, according to a new study from the Media Insight Project.

The findings burst the myth of the media "bubble"—the idea that no one pays attention to anything beyond a limited sphere of interest, like celebrities or college hoops or Facebook posts.

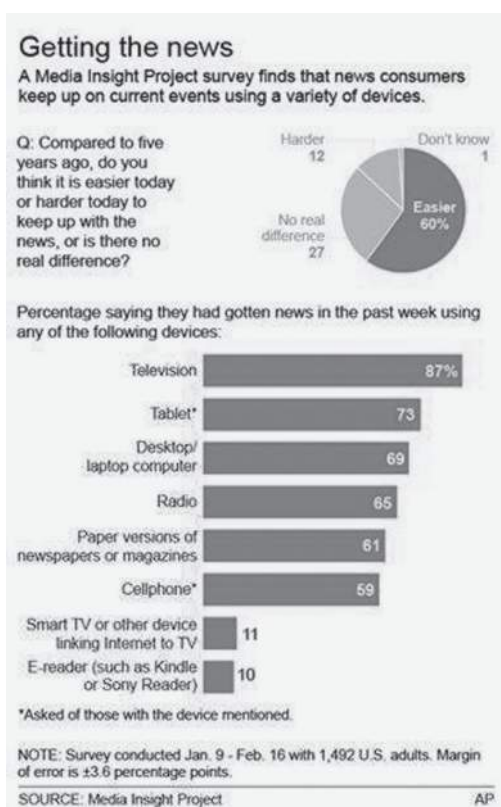
"This idea that somehow we're all going down narrow paths of interest and that many people are just sort of amusing themselves to death and not interested in the news and the world around them? That is not the case," said Tom Rosenstiel, executive director of the American Press Institute, which teamed with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research on the project.

People today are nibbling from a news buffet spread across 24-hour television, websites, radio, newspapers and magazines, and social networks.

Three-fourths of Americans see or hear news daily, including 6 of 10 adults under age 30, the study found. Nearly everyone - about 9 in 10 people - said they enjoy keeping up with the news. And more than 6 in 10 say that wherever they find the news, they prefer it to come directly from a news organization.

The study found relatively few differences by age, political leanings or wealth when it comes to the topics people care about. Traffic and weather are nearly universal interests. Majorities express interest in natural disasters, local news, politics, the economy, crime and foreign coverage.

With so many sources and technologies, 60 per-



cent of Americans say it's easier to keep up than it was just five years ago.

But at the same time, Jane Hall, an associate professor of journalism at American University, said no one is setting the national news agenda the way The New York Times and network evening news once did.

"I do lament those times in which something could become so important that we all watched,"

Hall said. "But that doesn't mean we aren't all engaged now."

If you're under 30, the future of news is in your hands, literally.

Three out of 4 young adults who carry cellphones use them to check the news. Most owners of tablet computers also use them to get updates; young people are the ones most likely to have tablets.

But the young think of news differently than previous generations did, said Rachel Davis Mersey, an associate professor at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism. Their broader definition includes anything happening right now, whether it's sports or entertainment or politics.

"We don't see young people thinking of it as a civic obligation to keep up with news," Mersey said. "We see young people including news as part of a very complex, very diverse, very large media diet that includes a diversity of sources, a diversity of platforms and really goes 24/7."

The Media Insight Project study found 20-somethings likelier to follow up when they hear something big is happening.

"They're the sort of on-demand news generation," Rosenstiel said.

Americans get that first word an assortment of ways. Traditional news operations still dominate, but word of mouth, email and text messages, Facebook and Twitter, and electronic news alerts also come into play.

Most people say they have more confidence in a story when they get it directly from a news-gathering operation. But their media habit doesn't include paying for it - only about a fourth have paid subscriptions.

Nine out of 10 watched some type of TV

news in the previous week. Newspapers, including online editions, and radio news each reached more than half the country. Online-only news sources such as Yahoo! News and BuzzFeed reached nearly half.

People flit across the news landscape, depending on what they're seeking, the study found.

Wonder why local newscasts seem fixated on crime, traffic, weather and health warnings? That's why viewers go there.

Cable TV channels draw the most people looking for foreign news, politics, social issues and business stories.

Readers prefer newspapers—online or in print—for local news, stories about schools and education, and arts and culture coverage. Among news sources, newspapers have the widest range of topics that attract a significant number of people.

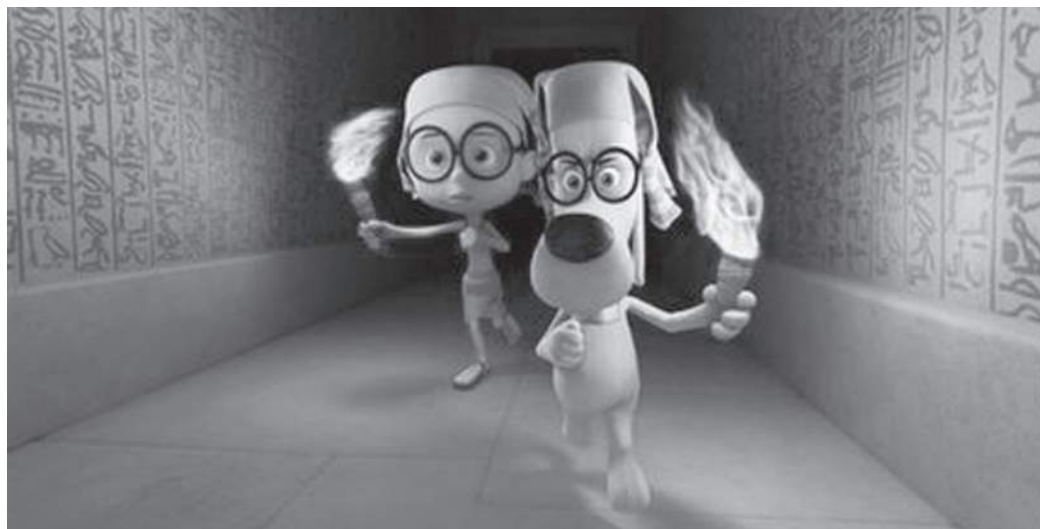
Americans most often turn to specialty media these days for their sports, entertainment news, and science and technology coverage. When a natural disaster strikes, they turn on the TV.

"People of all generations are picking and choosing the media that fit their needs at the moment and the story they're trying to follow," said Rosenstiel.

"Consumers are becoming more in control," he said, "and not simply reacting to what is thrown at us."

The survey was conducted Jan. 9 through Feb. 16, 2014 by NORC at the University of Chicago with funding from the American Press Institute. It involved landline and cellphone interviews in English or Spanish with 1,492 adults nationwide. Results from the full survey have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

'Mr. Peabody & Sherman' takes weekend box office



This image released by DreamWorks Animation shows Sherman, voiced by Max Charles, left, and Mr. Peabody, voiced by Ty Burrell, in a scene from the animated film, "Mr. Peabody & Sherman."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The animated, time-traveling adventures of a dog and his son beat out action heavy tales at the weekend box office.

After opening in second place last weekend, Dream-

Works' "Mr. Peabody & Sherman" came out on top over the St. Patrick's Day holiday with \$21.8 million.

The ranking marked an upset, as Disney's street racing thriller "Need for Speed,"

starring Aaron Paul, had been predicted to take the No. 1 position.

Instead, it only managed third place with \$17.8 million, while "300: Rise of an Empire" dropped to the No. 2 slot after

opening in first place the previous weekend.

Warner Bros.' 3-D sequel to the 2007 warrior jaunt "300,"

gained \$19.2 million, bringing its total to \$78 million. It took the first film only one weekend to reach \$70.9 million.

The Universal Pictures airliner thriller "Non-Stop" continued to drop after opening at No. 1 three weeks ago. Last weekend it landed in the No. 3 slot and this week it dropped again to No. 4.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Monday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Rentrak, are:

1. **"Mr. Peabody & Sherman,"** 20th Century Fox, \$21,809,249, 3,951 locations, \$5,520 average, \$63,789,165, 2 weeks.
2. **"300: Rise of an Empire,"** Warner Bros., \$19,201,345, 3,490 locations, \$5,502 average, \$78,406,898, 2 weeks.
3. **"Need for Speed,"** Disney, \$17,844,939, 3,115 locations, \$5,729 average, \$17,844,939, 1 week.
4. **"Non-Stop,"** Universal, \$10,615,305, 3,183 locations, \$3,335 average, \$68,805,115, 3 weeks.
5. **"The Single Moms Club,"** Lionsgate, \$8,075,111, 1,896 locations, \$4,259 average, \$8,075,111, 1 week.
6. **"The Lego Movie,"** Warner Bros., \$7,701,309, 3,040 locations, \$2,533 average, \$236,928,237, 6 weeks.
7. **"Son of God,"** 20th Century Fox, \$5,528,497, 2,990 locations, \$1,849 average, \$51,003,205, 3 weeks.
8. **"The Grand Budapest Hotel,"** Fox Searchlight, \$3,638,041, 66 locations, \$55,122 average, \$4,776,981, 2 weeks.
9. **"Frozen,"** Disney, \$2,147,743, 1,466 locations, \$1,465 average, \$396,386,593, 17 weeks.
10. **"The Monuments Men,"** Sony, \$2,062,783, 1,594 locations, \$1,294 average, \$73,881,475, 6 weeks.
11. **"Veronica Mars,"** Warner Bros., \$1,988,351, 291 locations, \$6,833 average, \$1,988,351, 1 week.
12. **"3 Days to Kill,"** Relativity Media, \$1,730,343, 1,566 locations, \$1,105 average, \$28,462,711, 4 weeks.
13. **"Ride Along,"** Universal, \$1,377,295, 1,024 locations, \$1,345 average, \$132,098,760, 9 weeks.
14. **"12 Years a Slave,"** Fox Searchlight, \$1,222,892, 925 locations, \$1,322 average, \$55,090,884, 22 weeks.
15. **"RoboCop,"** Sony, \$854,351, 965 locations, \$885 average, \$56,524,882, 5 weeks.
16. **"About Last Night,"** Sony, \$670,063, 624 locations, \$1,074 average, \$47,815,963, 5 weeks.
17. **"American Hustle,"** Sony, \$608,422, 503 locations, \$1,210 average, \$149,351,703, 14 weeks.
18. **"Pompeii,"** Sony, \$588,026, 671 locations, \$876 average, \$22,416,035, 4 weeks.
19. **"Gravity,"** Warner Bros., \$547,289, 320 locations, \$1,710 average, \$272,672,181, 24 weeks.
20. **"The Nut Job,"** Open Road, \$482,320, 405 locations, \$1,191 average, \$62,090,875, 9 weeks.

TV pitchman Kevin Trudeau gets 10-year sentence

CHICAGO (AP)—Best-selling author Kevin Trudeau, whose name became synonymous with late-night TV pitches, was sentenced to 10 years in prison Monday for bilking consumers through ubiquitous infomercials for his book, "The Weight Loss Cure 'They' Don't Want You to Know About."

As he imposed the sentence prosecutors had requested, U.S. District Judge Ronald Guzman portrayed the 50-year-old Trudeau as a habitual fraudster going back to his early adult-

hood. So brazen was Trudeau, the judge said, he once even used his own mother's Social Security number in a scheme.

"Since his 20s, he has steadfastly attempted to cheat others for his own gain," Guzman said, adding that Trudeau is "deceitful to the very core."

Trudeau, whose trademark dyed black hair turned partially gray as he awaited sentencing in jail, showed little emotion as the stiff sentence was handed down at the hearing in Chicago.

Addressing the judge ear-

lier in a 10-minute statement, Trudeau apologized and said he's become a changed man. He said he's meditated, prayed and read self-help books while locked up at Chicago's Metropolitan Correctional Center.

"I have truly had a significant reawakening," said Trudeau, who was dressed in orange jail clothes. "If I ever do an infomercial again ... I promise: No embellishments, no puffery, no lies."

While Trudeau appeared calm throughout the hearing, one of his supporters inter-



Trudeau

rupted the judge at one point and began to speak. After cutting the judge short a second time, the man dropped to the floor and refused to leave. U.S. marshals carried him out of the courtroom.

Jurors convicted Trudeau of criminal contempt in November for defying a 2004 court order barring him from running false ads about the weight-loss book.

Despite the order, he aired the infomercials at least 32,000 times, according to prosecutors.

He sold more than 850,000 copies of the weight-loss book, generating \$39 million in revenue, prosecutors say. And the judge agreed with prosecutors that the amount of loss stemming from Trudeau's deception was more than \$37 million - nearly the amount in revenue.

But in remarks Monday asking for a sentence of less than two years for his client, defense attorney Tom Kirsch said the harm Trudeau caused was minor compared to fraud in which

some people are cheated out of their life savings.

"A 10-year sentence might be appropriate for a defendant who destroyed lives," Kirsch said. "(But) Trudeau—if he swindled anyone—swindled them out of \$30 (the price of the book)."

Another defense attorney, Carolyn Gurland, added that Trudeau's legal troubles had already cost him his businesses and his home, and nearly all his other worldly possessions.

"He has a suitcase containing his personal artifacts. That's what he has left," she said.

A 'bad day' in rehab costs Chris Brown his freedom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With a roll of his eyes and a comment that he was good at using guns and knives, Chris Brown may have cost himself weeks of freedom and his chance to get back to making music anytime soon.

The reasons for Brown's dismissal from a Malibu rehab facility were detailed in court on Monday, with a judge ordering the Grammy winner to remain in jail until a formal probation violation hearing can be convened on April 23.

The jail stint will be Brown's longest and comes more than five years after he viciously attacked his then-girlfriend Rihanna in a rented sports car just hours before the Grammy Awards. Superior Court Judge James R. Brandlin said he was most troubled by a comment the singer made during a group therapy session last week.

"I am good at using guns and knives," the rehab reported Brown said in response to an exercise asking him to reflect on what he was good or excelled at.

Other transgressions cited by rehab workers included the singer ignoring a worker who was waiting to give him a drug test, rubbing elbows with a woman when he had signed an agreement to stay at least two



R&B singer Chris Brown, left, appears in Los Angeles Superior Court with his attorney Mark Geragos, on Monday, March 17, 2014.

feet away from all female clients and joking telling fellow patients, "I'm going to ask my higher power to take away my troubles." When asked whether he was serious, Brown said yes while shaking his head no, a report on Brown's conduct stated.

Outside court, Brown's attorney described Brown as having a bad day at the facility and said

he didn't think his client should be forced to stay behind bars for another month.

"You know—do you have a bad day? I have bad days sometimes," Mark Geragos said outside the courthouse. "Do you say things you'd like to take back? I certainly do. So I don't know that being in a therapeutic session and you're talking about

your reflections and you say one sentence means you go to jail? Seems to me to be counterproductive to therapy."

Geragos said he planned to petition to have Brown released before the April hearing. The singer has legal woes on the East Coast as well and is due to go on trial in a misdemeanor assault case in Washington, D.C., on April 17.

Kanye West pleads no contest in battery case

By RAQUEL MARIA DILLON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kanye West pleaded no contest Monday to misdemeanor battery against a photographer at Los Angeles International Airport in a special plea in which he maintains his innocence.

West entered the plea through his attorney and did not attend the court hearing. He was sentenced to two years of probation, 24 anger management therapy sessions and 250 hours of community service.

The rapper did not reach a civil settlement with the paparazzo, and his plea cannot be used against him in a civil lawsuit.

West was charged with misdemeanor counts of battery and grand theft after an altercation at LAX with photographer Daniel Ramos in July.



In this Oct. 22, 2013 file photo, recording artist Kanye West speaks onstage during the 17th Annual Hollywood Film Awards Gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Ramos claimed West punched him in an unprovoked attack and wrestled his camera to the ground during the scuffle.

Ramos told the court that West should be in jail. He said he was still taking medication for the injuries he suffered.

"If I did what he did to me, I'd be behind bars," he said. "I was doing my job and he broke the law."

The photographer said he is fearful of retaliation because of comments West made on the "Jimmy Kimmel" show in October. When asked about paparazzi, West said, "It's not safe for you in this zoo. Never think that I'm not from Chicago for one second."

Ramos is suing West and attended Monday's hearing accompanied by his lawyer, Gloria Allred.

Kiss, Def Leppard pair up for summer tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Kiss and Def Leppard are joining forces for a summer tour.

The legendary bands will embark on a U.S. tour June 23 in West Valley City, Utah. They will play more than 40 dates, including Los Angeles; Austin, Texas; Nashville, Tenn.; Atlanta; and Tampa, Fla. The tour wraps Aug. 31 in Woodlands, Texas.

Tickets go on sale Friday.

"You have two bands who to one degree or another have stood the test of time and put them together and you'll have a great night of music," said Paul Stanley of Kiss in an interview. "We're living in a time now where everyone wants more for their money, and that's under-

standable. So, when you can get two bands to collaborate together, we couldn't pick a better band for this tour than Def Leppard to go out with us."

Def Leppard's Joe Elliott said it's not likely the two bands will perform together.

"We're not jam bands either of us," Elliott said in an interview from Dublin. "It's very theatrical what Kiss does to a lesser extent obviously 'cause we don't do the makeup thing, our show runs like a military operation for sure. It's not like the Grateful Dead and Phish touring or something."

Kiss and Def Leppard are partnering with various military companies for the tour to support U.S. troops, including the United



This May 31, 2012 file photo shows, from left, Vivian Campbell, Phil Collen, Rick Savage, Joe Elliott, and Rick Allen, of musical group Def Leppard in Los Angeles. Kiss and Def Leppard are joining forces for a summer tour.

Service Organizations Inc. and Hiring Our Heroes.

Kiss will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame next month. This year marks Kiss' 40th anniversary.

Elliott will release a new album with his band Down 'N' Outz called "The Further Adventures Of..." on April 21. He said Def Leppard recently went into the studio to write new music.

Trust in relationship involves more than knowing passwords

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship for two years. We gave each other our phone passwords as soon as we made it official to avoid keeping things from each other.

One night I had a sudden urge to go through his phone. I had never done it before, and when I looked at his Facebook messages, I saw he had been exchanging inappropriate pictures with someone. I was shocked and angry, and it almost ended our relationship.

He deleted and blocked this person, and I forgave him. We don't talk about it anymore. I haven't noticed any other red flags, but now, when he's asleep or goes somewhere and leaves his phone at home, just looking at it upsets me. I'll put a pillow or a blanket over it so I can "forget" it's there. I don't know if I should take another peek to make sure he's staying on the straight and narrow, or if ignorance is bliss. What do you think?

UNSURE GUY IN TEXAS

DEAR UNSURE GUY: Ignorance ISN'T bliss. Being able to trust the man you're with is, and if it turns out you can't, it's better that you know sooner rather than later. It appears you still have some unresolved trust issues with him that need to be discussed.

Between you and me, if he was trying to conceal something, he probably wouldn't be leaving his phone exposed and vulnerable to checking.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 39 and have been married for 12 years. My wife is 35. When we first got together, my wife did not want to have kids right away. She said maybe after I graduated from college, or perhaps we could adopt. It took more time because of some surgeries, but I have graduated now and I want to start a family.

She now says she thought I was kidding when we were talking about it all those years ago, and that I knew she never wanted kids. I am at a loss. I love this woman, but I do want children, or to adopt a baby if that's not possible—but she says she's unwilling to do either. What am I to do?

WANTS TO BE A DAD IN CHARLOTTE, N.C.

DEAR WANTS TO BE A DAD: You either accept that you will be childless, or talk to an attorney about divorcing a woman who appears to have deceived you. How sad!

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was engaged to my ex-girlfriend for three years. We broke up more than a year ago—her choice. We reconciled briefly, but are now broken up for good, and she's dating someone else.

My question is about the engagement ring. It didn't bother me that she kept it until recently. Should I ask for the ring back or let it go? If you think I should ask for it, should I do it face-to-face or through some other messaging?

MOVING ON IN KENTUCKY

DEAR MOVING ON: When your ex-girlfriend broke the engagement, she should have returned the engagement ring. That she didn't indicates she is either ignorant regarding the rules of etiquette, or that she plans to keep it regardless of what the custom is. (If it's the latter, you're fortunate to be rid of her.)

I do NOT recommend asking for the ring via text or a phone call out of the blue. Your chances might be better if you ask in person. I wish you luck!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

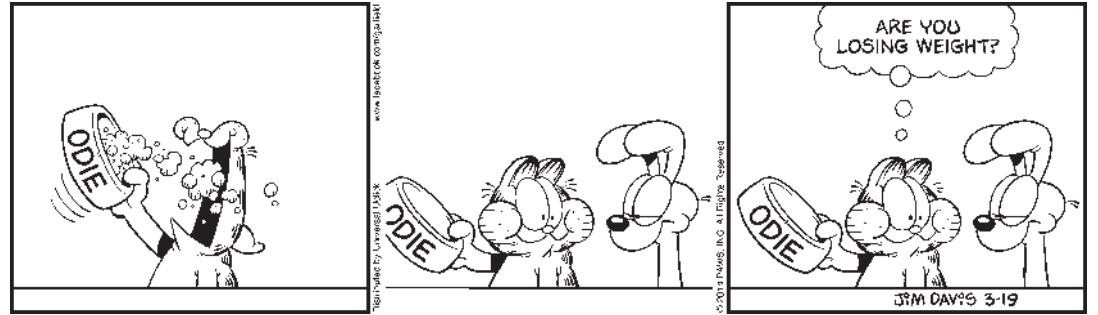
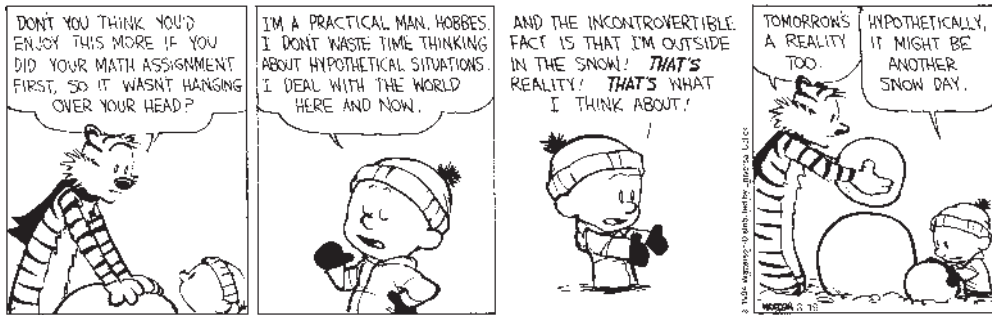
Pastimes

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By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

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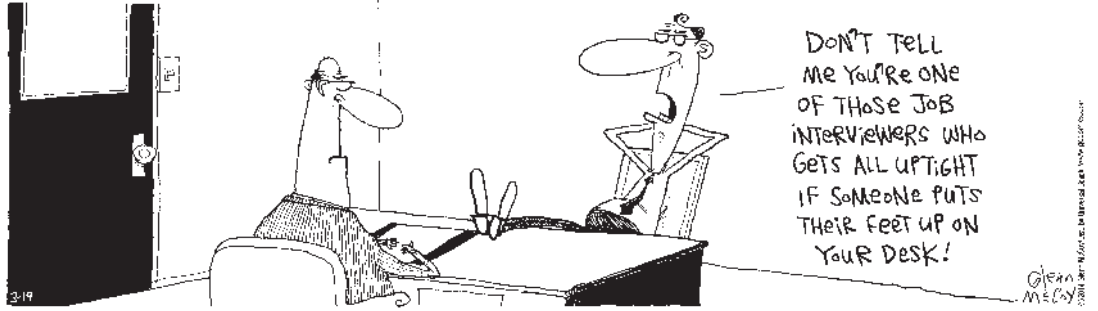
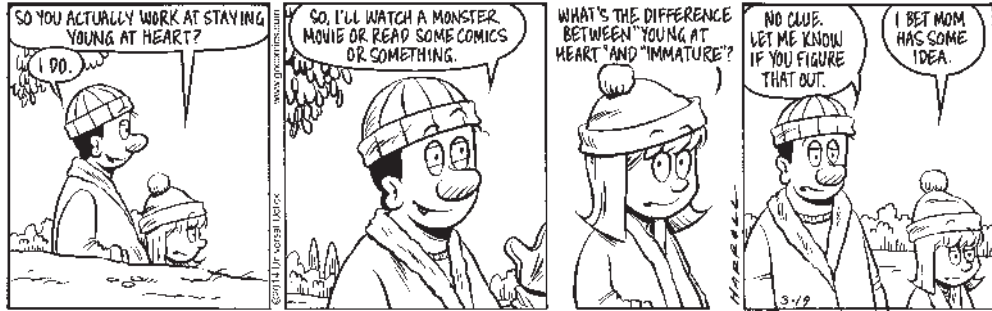


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Barber's concern
5 Small ammunition
8 Jet forth
12 — podrida
13 Uncooked
14 Undergarment, for short
15 Deli meat
17 "Yeah, right"
18 Scythe stroke
19 Baseball's Mickey
21 Circle
24 Baton Rouge sch.
25 Make fun of
28 Wander
30 Massage
33 "— Little Teapot"
34 Uses the phone
35 Ostrich's cousin
36 Wrong (Pref.)
37 One

DOWN

1 Goes like a bunny
2 "There oughta be —!"
3 "Casa blanca" heroine
4 Nursery toy
5 Lingerie item
6 Emeril's cry
7 Use the pool
8 Reads cursorily
9 Meadows
10 Pianist
11 Spouse
16 Greek P
20 Charitable donations
22 Algerian port
23 D.C. goings-on (Abbr.)
25 Carrey or Caviezel
26 Parisian pal
27 Medley
29 Choir member
31 Ref
32 Clear the tables
34 Prompted
38 Off the boat
40 Signed
42 Cauldron
43 Pleased
44 "Time" founder
45 Pinnacle
47 Dry
48 Pealed
49 Actress Sommer
52 Whatever number
53 "Oh, yeah? — who?"

Solution time: 21 mins.

H	O	A	R	D	O	H	S	O	N	G
C	L	S	E	I	D	A	E	R	I	C
R	E	S	T	O	R	E	R	N	E	L
I	A	K	V	E	F	I	I	F	D	
C	H	O	R	E	P	E	S	O		
H	O	L	E	R	E	S	T	R	A	I
A	N	D	B	E	R	T	H	J	A	Y
H	E	S	I	L	E	S	S	P	A	G
M	A	L	I	C	E	A	I	D		
O	M	A	R	F	S	T	R	I	C	T
L	I	N	T	G	A	T	E	D	G	E
E	D	D	I	E	R	A	S	O	I	L

Yesterday's answer 3-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jake Weber, 50; Bruce Willis, 59; Glenn Close, 67; Ursula Andress, 78.

Happy Birthday: Take time to explore people and places that interest you. Look at your current position and find ways to diversify and put new plans into motion. Partnerships will be important, and making commitments, signing contracts and settling legal or financial matters should take top priority. Clean house emotionally, physically and financially so that you can start anew. Your numbers are 4, 12, 18, 24, 32, 41, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An exchange with friends or colleagues will help you update any information you require. A change in the way you think and do things will encourage you to engage in pastimes that are geared toward making new connections. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let personal situations interfere with what you are trying to accomplish. Put your reputation and work first. An unusual idea will be considered brilliant by someone in a position to grant you a favor or help you get ahead. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be fooled by a good talker. Ask questions and look for ways to use your expertise to come up with better ideas that have fewer risks involved. Love is on the rise and romance will help improve your personal life. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your creativity and your ingenuity to come up with interesting ideas. Socialize and you will meet people who have something to offer that can improve your life. A change in the way you do things will bring you happiness and greater security. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll feel differently about some of the people in your life based on recent circumstances. Reassess your position and your future direction. Base your decisions on what will help you feel most comfortable moving forward. Emotions will be unstable. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look out for a troublemaker. You may need to dig deep in order to get the whole truth. Don't waffle or give in to someone trying to take advantage of you financially. Offer suggestions, but don't pay for someone else's mistake. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Idle time will lead to mistakes. Don't dwell on situations you cannot change. Focus on the present and take time out to enjoy the company of someone who has a good influence on your emotional well-being. Love is in the stars. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be torn between your personal life and your professional dreams. Take advantage of whatever comes your way that has the potential to lead to new and better use of your talents. Anyone who discourages you should be disregarded. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't believe everything you hear. You will face a decision that will be difficult to make if you have let someone take advantage of you. Change can be good if it's made for the right reasons. Ulterior motives are likely. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick close to home. Avoid conversations that can draw you into an argument. Focus more on self-improvement and find new outlets for the skills or services you have to offer. Don't underestimate any competition you face. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't expect something for nothing. You have to work hard and put in the time required to do the best job possible. Complaints are likely to surface if you do not stick to the instructions you were given. Protect your assets. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of personal business. Your financial concerns should be addressed and verbal contracts put in place. There are gains to be made, but you'll have to offer something very special if you want to reach your highest potential. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are dramatic, sensitive and secretive. You are perceptive and resourceful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9		6				2	8
5		8				4	7
	7	2				1	6
			4	5	2		
8		4				6	9
	5	1				3	4
		7				5	
	8		5	1	3		2
6							1

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	4	1	5	9	3	2	7
5	2	1	7	6	3	9	8	4
7	9	3	2	4	8	5	1	6
6	5	9	4	3	2	8	7	1
1	4	7	9	8	5	6	3	2
2	3	8	6	1	7	4	9	5
3	8	2	5	7	6	1	4	9
9	1	6	3	2	4	7	5	8
4	7	5	8	9	1	2	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★

3-19

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ARIEL SHARON (1928-2014)

Solution: 9 letters

T	F	I	E	L	D	U	K	I	L	F	O	R	C	E
I	N	V	A	S	I	O	N	A	S	P	O	O	R	T
D	D	U	T	Y	C	B	R	A	V	E	M	C	E	E
D	E	P	L	O	Y	E	D	S	E	B	K	I	T	L
D	C	G	M	B	N	F	U	L	A	I	D	G	S	A
A	O	A	R	E	M	O	E	T	N	B	A	E	I	V
L	M	M	G	E	A	V	M	G	A	P	R	T	N	I
I	D	I	S	U	E	Z	O	R	L	T	I	A	I	V
G	E	R	D	N	B	F	M	A	I	S	N	R	M	I
R	T	E	T	A	I	Y	T	L	L	E	G	T	E	C
E	C	H	T	S	K	O	A	D	I	R	S	M	T	
D	E	T	R	O	O	G	V	N	D	O	W	I	O	
A	L	A	U	N	R	O	D	E	I	U	J	A	R	R
E	E	F	G	A	R	A	N	K	S	T	A	L	P	Y
L	E	U	M	A	S	T	A	T	E	S	M	A	N	R

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3/19

Aluf, Army, Battle, Blunt, Brave, Coma, Combat, Daring, Degree, Deployed, Duty, Dvora, Elected, Eleventh, Father, Field, Force, General, Gilad, Gur, Invasion, Kadima, King Of Israel, Laws, Leader, Likud, Lily, Major, Margalit, Omri, Platoon, Prime Minister, Ranks, Sabra, Samuel, Son, Statesman, Strategic, Studies, Suez, Tel Aviv, Troops, Victory, Wise

Yesterday's Answer: Format

Treasury 12, 13, 14 or 15 can be purchased online at wonderword.universalclick.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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2 Auto (Radiator) Repairer: \$5.55/hr. At least five yrs of experience required. Email resume to grace@hanmisaipan.com.

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Saipan Tribune

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WHATZIT Solution: Fashion editor

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

EDitor

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in classified section

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Applicants must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test). Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply. Must possess good verbal and written communication skills. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills a plus. Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

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Minimum five (5) years work experience as a cabinet maker; Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

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Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on 03/31/2014 at 4:00p.m. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

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To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

Hickson leads Nuggets to 110-100 win over Clippers



DENVER (AP)—Reserve J.J. Hickson had 21 points and Ty Lawson scored eight of his 19 in a late fourth-quarter run, helping the Denver Nuggets end the Los Angeles Clippers' 11-game winning streak with a 110-100 victory Monday night.

The Clippers' streak was tied for second-longest in franchise history. Their longest, 17 in a row last season, also was snapped by Denver at Pepsi Center.

Kenneth Faried added 18 points and 16 rebounds in a duel in the paint against Blake Griffin, who finished with 26 points and 12 boards.

Down 98-96 with 4:21 remaining, Lawson hit a 3-point to give the Nuggets a lead they wouldn't relinquish. It was part of a 14-2 run to close out the game. The Clippers didn't score again after DeAndre Jordan's dunk at 3:31.

The Clippers had plenty of chances to get back into the contest, but Randy Foye foiled any rally bid—hitting a big 3-pointer and later blocking Reggie Bullock's shot on a drive.

Still, it was quite a St. Patrick's Day for Griffin. He began the day by being named the league's player of the week for a third time this season. Then, he went out and scored at least 20 points in a career-best 27th straight game.

Chris Paul finished 29 points. He also had seven assists, giving him 5,996 or his career. He's trying to join Magic Johnson, John Stockton and Isiah Thomas as the only NBA players to go over the 6,000-assist plateau before their 29th birthday. Paul turns 29 in May.

The Clippers played the night before, beating Cleveland 102-80, and seemed to fade late in the fourth quarter.

Los Angeles was without Darren Collison, who didn't make the trip because of a stomach virus. The team already was missing J.J. Redick (bulging disk), Jamal Crawford (strained left calf).

Denver turned in a five-point possession moments after losing the lead early in the third quarter. Lawson hit a 3-pointer as the shot clock expired and was fouled by Paul, who was incensed over the play and given a technical. Foye made the technical foul and Lawson hit his free throw to make it a 65-63 game.

Griffin tumbled all over the court in the first half, dragging down Faried on one sequence—Faried was called for a foul—and ran into a cameraman at halfcourt trying to track down a loose ball.

Paul was a bit dinged up as he landed awkwardly on his left leg after a shot in the sec-

ond quarter, and later was hit in the face by Wilson Chandler's leg when Chandler tried to leap over the Clippers point guard. Paul stood his ground and drew the charge.

Denver led 56-53 at half-time despite Paul going for 20 and Griffin adding 16.

The Nuggets wore replica uniforms of the 1993-94 team to honor the squad that knocked off top-seeded Seattle in the postseason. Several of the players and coaches from that team showed up for the celebration, including Dikembe Mutombo and LaPhonso Ellis.

Ellis and several of his former teammates had dinner the night before with current players to chat about the glory days, when the Nuggets erased a 2-0 deficit to beat the Sonics—then coached by George Karl—in a decisive fifth game.

"Fascinating to hear all the stories and add some little details to maybe some unfinished stories," Ellis said. "We feel very overwhelmed, flattered and honored that (the Nuggets) would extend to us an unbelievable gesture."

Pacers 99, 76ers 90

In Indianapolis, Lance Stephenson scored 25 points as the Indiana Pacers came back from an early deficit to beat Philadelphia, handing the 76ers their franchise-record 21st straight loss.

Paul George had 24 points for the Pacers, who staked the Sixers to a 15-6 lead before taking the lead and pulling away. George Hill scored 11 points, Ian Mahinmi had 10 and David West grabbed 12 rebounds.

Thaddeus Young had 23 points to lead the Sixers, who tied the Detroit Pistons for the sixth-longest losing



Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin, left, flies through lane to make a hook shot for a basket over Denver Nuggets forward J.J. Hickson in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Denver on Monday, March 17, 2014.

streak in NBA history. The Pistons lost 21 straight bridging the 1979-80 and 1980-81 seasons.

The Cleveland Cavaliers set the NBA record for consecutive losses with 26, in the 2010-11 season.

The Sixers haven't won

since Jan. 29 at Boston. Evan Turner, now with the Pacers, hit the winning shot in that 95-94 win by Philadelphia. Turner, traded to Indiana with Lavoy Allen on Feb. 20 for Danny Granger and a draft pick, had four points and seven rebounds against

his former team Monday.

Hawks 97, Bobcats 83

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Paul Millsap scored 28 points as the Atlanta Hawks ended the Charlotte Bobcats' eight-game home winning streak.

It was Atlanta's 11th straight win over Charlotte. The Hawks have won four straight, pulling within 1 1/2 games of the Bobcats for the seventh spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Kemba Walker led the Bobcats with 20 points.

Al Jefferson, who was selected the Eastern Conference Player of the Week on Monday, had 16 points and 12 rebounds for his 30th double-double of the season but was just 6 of 15 from the field.

Nets 108, Suns 95

In New York, Deron Williams scored 28 points and even dunked for the first time this season, leading the Brooklyn Nets past the Phoenix Suns and extending their home winning streak to nine.

Williams shot 11 of 13 from the field and looks all the way back after ankle problems wrecked his first half of the season. He was two points off his season high and rose above the rim to throw down a dunk that finished off a fourth-quarter fast break started by Andrei Kirilenko's steal.

Joe Johnson added 19 points for the Nets, on their longest home winning streak since winning nine straight from March 15-April 6, 2006.

Markieff Morris scored 18 points and Gerald Green 17 for the Suns, who were seeking a perfect three-game trip against Atlantic Division teams after winning at Boston and Toronto.

Thunder 97, Bulls 85

In Chicago, Kevin Durant finished with 35 points and 12 rebounds as the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Chicago Bulls.

Russell Westbrook added 17 points after sitting out the previous day to rest his surgically repaired knee, and the Thunder rebounded from their most lopsided loss of the season. They went on a 13-point run after the Bulls scored eight straight early in the fourth to cut the lead to one and pulled this one out after falling by 23 at home to Dallas on Sunday.

Durant ran his streak of games with 25 or more points to 32, the longest in the NBA since Michael Jordan did it in 40 in a row during the 1986-87 season. He also chipped in with five assists.

Chicago's Joakim Noah, who's been hearing "MVP!" chants lately, shot 2 of 8 but finished with nine points, 12 rebounds and nine assists.

Rockets 124, Jazz 86

In Houston, Terrence Jones scored 30 points as the Houston Rockets ended a three-game skid with their most lopsided victory of the season.

Dwight Howard was out with an ankle strain, leaving the Rockets without him for the first time this season. But they still had no problem handling the Utah Jazz, who have lost five in a row and have one of the worst records in the Western Conference.

Houston led 92-69 entering the fourth, and the big advantage allowed an overworked James Harden, who had played more than 43 minutes in three of the previous four games, to rest a bit as he watched the fourth quarter from the bench. Harden finished with 15 points.

Derrick Favors had 15 points for the Jazz a night after scoring a career-high 28.

Mavericks 94, Celtics 89

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki led another balanced scoring effort with 19 points as the Dallas Mavericks opened a club-record eight-game homestand by holding on for a victory over the Boston Celtics.

The Celtics trailed by double digits twice in the second half before getting within one in the final minute but couldn't avoid an 0-15 finish on the road against the Western Conference.

The Mavericks followed their first win in more than two years over possible first-round playoff foe Oklahoma City by taking their third straight to get a season-high 14 games over .500.

Jerryd Bayless had 19 points and Kris Humphries matched a season high with 14 rebounds for the Celtics, who lost their fifth straight game and 12th in the past 15.

Cavs' Irving out 2 weeks with biceps injury

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyrie Irving has been knocked out by an injury again, and it's really painful for the Cavaliers.

Irving will miss at least two weeks with a strained tendon in his left biceps, a major blow to Cleveland's chances of making the NBA playoffs with only a month left in the regular season.

Irving got hurt during the first half of Sunday night's loss to the Los Angeles Clippers. The All-Star point guard did not return after missing all five shots and leaving the game for medical evaluation and treatment. He flew back with the Cavaliers and Monday underwent an MRI, which revealed "a strain in the long head tendon" of his biceps, the Cavs said in a release.

The 21-year-old will be

shut down for two weeks and re-evaluated. The Cavs said the tendon's response "will determine the most appropriate course of treatment."

Irving's injury couldn't come at a worse time for the Cavs.

He'll miss at least eight of the final 15 games, and without their leading scorer and best player, it will be tough for the Cavs (26-41) to clinch the eighth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Cleveland begins the week 4 1-2 games behind Atlanta, and the Cavs have a difficult schedule ahead with Miami, Oklahoma City and Houston in town over the next five days.

And, equally troubling, is that Irving is again missing significant time due to an injury.

He sat out 38 games his first two seasons with a variety of injuries, including a broken

nose, fractured jaw, broken finger, sprained shoulder and concussion. One of Irving's goals was to play in all 82 games this season, but he's already missed three with a bruised knee and is expected to sit for eight more.

Irving has scoffed at the notion that he is injury prone, but he hasn't made it through a full season and he was also sidelined during the summer after his rookie season when he broke his hand slamming it into a padded wall during a practice in Las Vegas.

Irving's injury issues predated him turning pro as he played in just 11 games as a freshman at Duke because of a foot injury.

Most of Irving's injuries have been unavoidable and bad luck because he plays hard and is unafraid to drive

to the basket and draw contact from bigger, stronger players. It's not clear exactly when Irving was hurt on Sunday night.

As the Cavs move forward they'll have to factor Irving's spotty medical history into their decision as to whether or not to offer him a maximum-year contract extension this summer.

Cleveland hasn't made the playoffs since 2010, and this was supposed be the year the Cavs returned to the post-season and stayed out of the draft lottery. However, the club has underachieved in coach Mike Brown's second stint and owner Dan Gilbert fired general manager Chris Grant last month.

Now without Irving, the Cavs' climb has gotten even steeper.

Colts owner Jim Irsay has double image in media



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Colts owner Jim Irsay is known in NFL circles as a tough businessman and eccentric billionaire who enjoys interacting with fans about his beloved team and favorite songs from bands like the Beatles and the Grateful Dead.

He may end up adding convicted felon to the mix.

Irsay was pulled over near his home in suburban Carmel just before midnight Sunday by police who said they found multiple prescription drugs inside his vehicle. He was spotted driving slowly, stopping in the roadway and failing to use a turn signal, and police said Irsay failed several roadside field sobriety tests before he was arrested.

The drugs weren't associated with any of the pill bottles found inside, police said. Some weren't even in bottles.

The 54-year-old Irsay, who acknowledged a painkiller dependency more than a decade ago, faces preliminary charges of misdemeanor driving while intoxicated and four felony counts of possession of a controlled substance.

If Irsay is charged and convicted on the felony counts, he could face six months to three years in prison on each count. Chief Deputy Prosecutor Andre Miksha said no decision had been made on formal charges and a hearing was set for March 26.

Irsay, whose mug shot was posted on websites for millions to see, said nothing as he left the Hamilton County Jail after posting bond Monday. A short time later, he tweeted: "Deepest thx to family, friends, fans, colleagues for the messages of support, thoughts and prayers. Impossible to tell u how much this means."

An NFL spokesman said Irsay is subject to discipline

but didn't elaborate on what that might be. Detroit Lions president Tom Lewand was suspended for 30 days and fined \$100,000 in 2010 for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy following his guilty plea to driving while impaired.

Current and former NFL players were clearly watching the case with interest.

"I want to see what the NFL

does about this Jim Irsay situation if a player loses a game check no matter the amount he should lose a game day," Atlanta Falcons wide receiver White tweeted. "I'm guessing a million dollar fine will come which is nothing to a man that makes billions."

White, accused earlier this year of failing to appear in court for speeding and tinted window citations, added: "I

don't think Irsay is a bad guy I actually like him as an owner but it was a bad mistake."

Authorities would not say what drugs Irsay was allegedly caught with, but they were listed as Schedule IV drugs by the Drug Enforcement Administration. That type of drug, which includes Xanax, Darvocet and Ambien, has a low risk for abuse or dependency, according to the DEA.

Irsay acknowledged in 2002 that he had become dependent on painkillers after several years of orthopedic operations but said he had overcome the problem after undergoing treatment.

The DEA investigated the case, but local prosecutors at the time said they saw no reason to charge Irsay. In October 2013, Irsay tweeted that "I don't drink ... haven't in over 15 years."

Irsay became the Colts owner in 1997 after the death of his father, Robert Irsay, and a lengthy legal battle with his father's second wife. Forbes magazine has estimated Irsay's net worth at \$1.6 billion.

He helped build the Colts into a top NFL team over the past decade behind quarterback Peyton Manning, now with Denver, and was a key

player in the drive to bring the Super Bowl to Indianapolis two years ago. He is working with some success to rebuild the team behind young quarterback Andrew Luck while coping with a painful divorce that follows a decade-long separation from his wife of 33 years.

Irsay has cultivated a relaxed image that fans have responded to. Irsay has said the public wants owners who are "down to earth" and he's done his best to keep his fans up to date on his team—and lots of other things.

"Don't ever mix NiQuil and Ambien...it'll give U gas and u might end up on Capitol Hill," he once tweeted.

Irsay has written his own poetry, songs and short stories and plays the guitar.

He is an eclectic collector of everything from letters from Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson to electric guitars that once belonged to famous musicians, including one said to be the last guitar played by Jerry Garcia before he died in 1995. He made headlines by buying the handwritten scroll manuscript of Jack Kerouac's beat poem "On the Road" for \$2.43 million and sending it on a nationwide tour.



Attorney James Voyles, center left, and Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay, center right, leave the Hamilton County Jail in Indianapolis, Monday, March 17, 2014.

Dodgers, Diamondbacks arrive Down Under

SYDNEY (AP)—The Arizona Diamondbacks and Los Angeles Dodgers arrived to a very low-key welcome in Australia on Tuesday for their Major League Baseball season-opening series this weekend after 15-hour flights from the U.S. west coast.

The Diamondbacks arrived first at Sydney airport about 6 a.m. local time Tuesday, followed about four hours later by the Dodgers.

"It's great to be here," said Dodgers' veteran announcer Vin Scully.

There were only a few autograph seekers to meet both teams, unlike recent opening-day series in Tokyo where arriving teams were mobbed by fans. Several airport travelers Tuesday asked the media who the high-profile looking arrivals were.

Within six hours of arriving, the Diamondbacks held their first light workout at Sydney Cricket Ground, where Clayton Kershaw will start for the Dodgers in Saturday's season opener and left-hander Wade Miley replaces Patrick Corbin, who has a left elbow injury, as the Diamondbacks starter.

They'll close out the two-game series Sunday when the Dodgers' Hyun-Jin Ryu is slated to start against Arizona's Trevor Cahill.

Under sunny skies, Arizona first base coach Dave McKay was one of the first to survey the SCG diamond—328 feet down the foul lines, 400 feet

to straightaway center field.

"Looks all great," said McKay. "Although I can't believe the distance from home plate to the seats in foul territory. There's quite a bit of room there."

Manager Kirk Gibson watched the team stretch and take infield practice. Other coaches hit popups to the outfield and let them hit hard on the natural turf to determine the amount of bounce: the verdict was that there was a lot of it.

The infield dirt and sand combination was also tested, but there shouldn't be anything unfamiliar in it: the MLB-certified dirt was imported from the United States in nearly 20 shipping containers.

The Dodgers will play Team Australia in an exhibition game Thursday, with the Diamondbacks to play Australia on Friday.

The series marks the first regular-season games in Australia. Previous MLB season openers were held in Monterrey, Mexico (1999), San Juan, Puerto Rico (2001) and four times in Tokyo, most recently in 2012.

The weekend games will mark the 100th anniversary of an exhibition game played by the Chicago White Sox and the New York Giants at the Sydney Cricket Ground, won 5-4 by the White Sox before 10,000 fans on Jan. 3, 1914.

Capacity crowds of about 40,000 are expected for both games.

Broncos sign former Steelers receiver

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Before John Elway headed out to the golf course to take advantage of a sunny Sunday in the Rocky Mountains, the Denver Broncos general manager made yet another splash in free agency by signing wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders to a three-year, \$15 million contract.

The Broncos have been the league's most successful suitors so far, committing nearly \$128 million to five players, including three thumpers who will reinforce a defense that was exposed in the Super Bowl: safety T.J. Ward, cornerback Aqib Talib, pass rusher DeMarcus Ware, and two receivers in Bubba Caldwell and Sanders.

"They definitely did a great job from a free-agent perspective," Sanders said. "When I saw them bring in DeMarcus Ware, Aqib Talib and T.J. Ward, I was like, 'They're stacking up on defense.' I knew with Peyton Manning and Demaryius Thomas and Julius Thomas and Wes Welker and (Bubba) Caldwell, I was like, 'I would fit with these guys really

well.' When my agent, Steve Weinberg, got the call, we were definitely fist-bumping. We were hoping that the numbers matched, and they matched. So yesterday was probably one of the best days of my life."

A former Pittsburgh Steelers No. 2 receiver, Sanders can play both the slot and the outside in place of Eric Decker, who left Denver for the New York Jets.

This latest move left several teams fuming, according to NFL.com, which reported that Sanders' agent, Steve Weinberg, shopped his client around after agreeing to a deal with principle with the Kansas City Chiefs.

A call from The Associated Press to Weinberg went straight to voice mail Sunday, and that mailbox was full.

Sanders defended his agent, saying Weinberg did nothing wrong. He said he visited four teams and when he was ready to sign they reached out to all four of those teams to ask for their final offer.

"And I guess the Chiefs felt like they had a deal. But we never officially had a deal,"

Sanders said.

He said the fact that he was at the Chiefs' facility at the time may have made them believe they had a deal in place.

"There was no handshake. There was no kind of agreement ... we were close to a deal, but it wasn't anything official just yet," Sanders said. "In terms of shopping around, we didn't shop around. Teams were still calling. Teams were still trying to get involved. That's what happened. Steve Weinberg, he did an exceptional job in terms of the whole free-agency process. At times, I was like, 'Steve, what is going on? Am I flying East Coast or West Coast?' But I believe in him. Everything that he said was going to happen, happened. I ended up at the place that I needed to be."

Elway said this sort of thing happens this time of year.

"I will say this, we didn't know anything about it, but having been in this for the last three years, that stuff happens quite a bit, so miscommunications happens a lot of times," Elway said.

Sanders, a third-round draft pick in 2010, had 161 catches for 2,030 yards and 11 touchdowns in four seasons with the Steelers. He also has 13 receptions for 172 yards in four career playoff games.

Last year, he caught a career-best 67 passes for 740 yards and six TDs, including four over the Steelers' final six games.

Although not as big as Decker, Sanders is fast and elusive—he ranked fourth in the league last year by causing opponents to miss 15 tackles.

Elway said, "I think he's going to add a lot," to Denver's high-octane offense that shattered several records last year and was the envy of many a wide receiver who marveled at the numbers Manning put up week after week.

"It was amazing and I remember sitting at my house saying, 'Man, that's what I want to be a part of someday,'" Sanders said. "It always works out as long as you work hard. They had a really good season last year and hopefully we can repeat the same things and this time finish it off."

Pistorius trial starts after delay

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—A police photographer who took pictures of the bloody scene of Reeva Steenkamp’s shooting death continued his testimony at Oscar Pistorius’ murder trial on Tuesday.

Warrant Officer Bennie van Staden took hundreds of photos of the scene, including of the blood marks, bullet casings and the gun found inside Pistorius’ bathroom in the hours after the double-amputee athlete killed his girlfriend before dawn on Feb. 14 last year.

The policeman says he also took nine photographs of Pistorius soon after the shooting,



Oscar Pistorius, left, walks past June Steenkamp, back left, mother of Reeva Steenkamp, and Jenny Strydom, as he arrives in court Monday, March 17, 2014 in Pretoria, South Africa.

with the athlete seen in some of the images standing in blood-stained prosthetic legs and wearing blood-soaked shorts in the garage of his home.

Pistorius, 27, is charged with premeditated murder for killing Steenkamp, 29. He pleaded not guilty to murder and says he shot his girlfriend accidentally thinking she was an intruder in a toilet cubicle in the bathroom.

Van Staden was being cross-examined for the second day by chief defense lawyer Barry Roux on details of when and where he took some photos and what he moved at Pistorius’ home.

Van Staden’s testimony con-

tinued after the start of Tuesday’s proceedings was delayed by over an hour to give the policeman time to collect records and discs relating to the photos. Van Staden was asked by the defense Monday to produce discs containing master copies of photographs. The defense also requested results of gunshot residue tests conducted on Pistorius by van Staden.

The police photographer’s

testimony followed that of a firearm instructor who said that Pistorius was trying to buy seven more guns in addition to the 9 mm pistol the runner had licensed for self-defense and which he used to kill Steenkamp. One of the other guns Pistorius wanted was the civilian version of a semi-automatic assault rifle used by the South African police, Sean Rens testified.

Manny Pacquiao wants his belt back

MANILA, Philippines—Manny Pacquiao wants his championship back.

In an interview with Solar Sports, the People’s Champion said he is training really hard for his WBO welterweight showdown against Timothy Bradley on April 12 in Las Vegas.

“We’re focused on aggressiveness and the strategies we’re going to use,” said Pacquiao.

In a widely criticized split decision, Bradley beat Pacquiao in their first encounter in 2012.

After that controversial loss, Bradley has stated that Pacquiao has lost his aggressiveness and killer instinct.

That statement has apparently rekindled the fire for the eight-division world champion. “I will bring that [killer instinct] back.

He requested that and I will give it to him.”

Pacquiao promises to go on attack mode to take back what he feels is rightfully his.

“I want to win convincingly.

The knockout will come, I don’t want to get careless.”

According to Pacquiao, he’s not looking past Bradley.

“I am not underestimating him. I just want to be 100 percent when I climb up the ring.

Pacquiao-Bradley 2 will be aired live on April 13 at Solar All Access and via satellite on Solar Sports. **(PDI)**

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	37	28	.569	—
Brooklyn	34	31	.523	3
New York	27	40	.403	11
Boston	22	46	.324	16½
Philadelphia	15	52	.224	23

Southeast Division

x-Miami	45	19	.703	—
Washington	35	31	.530	11
Charlotte	33	35	.485	14
Atlanta	30	35	.462	15½
Orlando	19	48	.284	27½

Central Division

x-Indiana	50	17	.746	—
Chicago	37	30	.552	13
Cleveland	26	41	.388	24
Detroit	25	41	.379	24½
Milwaukee	13	54	.194	37

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	50	16	.758	—
Houston	45	22	.672	5½
Dallas	41	27	.603	10
Memphis	39	27	.591	11
New Orleans	27	39	.409	23

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	49	18	.731	—
Portland	43	24	.642	6
Minnesota	33	32	.508	15
Denver	30	37	.448	19
Utah	22	46	.324	27½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	48	21	.696	—
Golden State	42	26	.618	5½
Phoenix	38	29	.567	9
Sacramento	23	44	.343	24
L.A. Lakers	22	44	.333	24½

x-clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dela Cruz tops MGA monthly tourney

Joey Dela Cruz topped the Marianas Golf Association February Ace of the Month Tournament held last Feb. 23 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort’s west course.

Dela Cruz actually finished tied with Frank Cabrera after both players shot an identical net score of 69. The former carded a gross of 78 built around a 38 in the front and a 40 in the back, while the latter fired a gross of 89 after a 44 in the front and a 45 in the back. Dela Cruz and Cabrera sport handicaps of nine and 20, respectively.

Dela Cruz was declared the winner due to MGA’s tie-breaking regulations

For the third and fourth spots, there was yet another tie, this time between J.J. Atalig and 2014 MGA president Jack Salas, who both netted a 70 in tournament.

Atalig shot a 39 in the front and a 37 in the back for a gross of 76. With a handicap of 6, Atalig netted a 70. Salas shot a 44 in the front and a 42 in the back for a gross of 86. With a handicap of 16, Salas netted a 70.

With the application of MGA’s tie-breaking regulations, Atalig bagged third place and Salas settled for fourth. Coming in at fifth place was Geri Dela

Cruz who shot a 50 in the front and a 45 in the back for a gross of 95. With a handicap of 24, Dela Cruz netted a 71.

In the closest to the pin battle, Aaron Benavente won in hole No. 3, Jay Muna in hole No. 7, Cabrera in hole No.13, and Salas in hole No. 17.

MGA president Salas is inviting members of the community to join this organization. The annual membership fee for existing members is \$30 and for new members is \$40. Membership fees are due by the June 2014 Ace of the Month Tournament.



20 COMPLETE

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course held from March 11 to 14 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

“They showed significant improvement after the first few days of the course and I am happy with the way they responded to my teachings. They asked so many questions to better understand the game and how to officiate. I clarified those doubts and now they are confident to make those calls,”

Azevedo said.

Most of the participants in the course were youth and the former FC Porto (Portugal) player said having a young generation of referees is good news to the CNMI’s program.

“Laurie (Peterka), the president of NMIVA, was a bit worried that they are too young to join the course. However, I told her they are in a good age. They are young and have a lot of time to learn and improve. They are very interested and I could see that with the way

they asked questions during the practical and lecture sessions,” the visiting instructor said.

He added that those who completed the course have to consolidate what they have learned and put them into practice.

J.R. Gechig agreed, saying he learned more about being a referee and the game itself and he will use these as he coaches in the private school league and officiates games in school competitions.

“I now have a better under-

standing of the game and refereeing and I can pass it on to my players,” Gechig said.

Demapan, who plays for Grace Christian Academy, said she never tried refereeing before because she is afraid she won’t make the right call, but now she can help out in school events and other games.

“I also earned an advantage as a player, as I now know what calls referees make when they see certain plays,” Demapan said.

Hideo, a nursing student

at Northern Marianas College, played before and now that he is planning to get involved in the sport anew, he is leaning toward becoming a referee.

Quintin Ramsey has been refereeing youth soccer games and he loves to add volleyball to the list.

“It is very nice if I will be involved in a lot of sports whether as an official or as a player. I love the learning process, how you interpret and apply rules in certain situations,” Ramsey said.

TIGERS

From Page 28

the third.

The Tigers trailed early, as they were held to one hit with Vince Cepeda on the mound for the Brewers in the first four innings. Cepeda struck out four Tigers batters and no runners from the opposing team made it past second base in that juncture before he gave up another hit and committed a wild pitch and hit by pitch in the fifth inning.

Tom Guerrero took over from Cepeda after the latter’s wild pitch gave the Tigers their first run. The Tigers went on to end the fifth behind by only one run after McGarry Sebaklim scored off Marvin Kaipat’s error at centerfield. A Mesa RBI single at bottom of the sixth inning tied the match

and the match remained even in the next inning before the Brewers regained the upper hand off Manny Sablan’s RBI single in the eighth inning.

However, the Tigers roared in the bottom of the eighth with their three runs to steal the victory from the defending champions.

With the win, the Tigers improved their record to 3-3.

Fielders 12, North Starz 0

In last Friday’s game, the Fielders earned an easy win via mercy rule against the North Starz.

The Fielders bagged their fourth win in four games after only six and a half innings, as a five-run bottom of the sixth gave last year’s runners-up the needed 10 runs to finish off the North Starz (2-5) early.

Ton Benavente hit a two-run single in the sixth inning,

while Brian McAllister had an RBI single, and the Fielders got the two other runs off the North Starz’s errors at home plate and second base. Benavente also had a two-run RBI single earlier in the third inning where the Fielders made four runs to take a 7-0 lead. The three early runs were logged in the second inning off Jared Sablan’s two-run single and a sacrifice out.

Joe Palacios pitched for the Fielders in the first three innings and allowed only four hits, while striking out six. With Palacios in charge and the rest of the Fielders’ defense in place, the North Starz made it to scoring position only once. Lamar Iguel walked in the sixth inning, stole second, and eventually reached third on a Fielders’ miscue, but was left stranded, as Benavente picked up a grounder from first base for the third out.

NATURAL

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chipped in 17.

In the first match, Saipan Ice outgunned Armatech in the second half to nail its second win in six games. Saipan Ice and Armatech were even after the first half and the latter clung to a 32-31 halftime lead before the former gained leverage in the third. Saipan Ice drew two field goals each from four players in the third period to take the upper hand, 49-45.

Derick Rangamar, Nokki Saralu, and Syl Teregeyo then delivered the killer blows in the fourth, as they combined for 23 of the team’s 29 markers in the playoff canto. Rangamar dropped 9 points, while Saralu hit two triples and made all his 8 markers in the fourth, and Teregeyo chipped in 6. The trio’s

baskets countered the triples Ferdie Tobias and James Abuy hit in a missing bid to give Armatech its second victory.

First Game

Saipan Ice 76 – Rangamar 16, Teregeyo 14, Norita 12, A. Kaipat 8, N. Saralu 8, Sablan 6, Cayading 6, , Factor 4.

Armatech 69 – Berline 18, Abuy 15, Tobias 13, Montano 10, Gabaldon 9, Crisostomo 4.

Scoring by quarters: 14-14, 31-32, 49-45, 76-69.

Second Game

Natural Mystic 65 – Barcinas 21, Standish 12, Ulloa 11, Lisua 9, Reyes 6, Ogarto 5.

IT&E 59 – Peredo 22, De Dios 17, Mateo 5, Barrios 5, Camacho 4, Garcia 2, Hernandez 2, Park 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-14, 35-30, 51-42, 65-59.

FIVB Indoor Volleyball Referee Course



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fédération Internationale de Volleyball instructor Avelino Azevedo gives pointers to participants of the FIVB volleyball cooperation program referee course last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Joe Tajeron shakes hands with Fédération Internationale de Volleyball instructor Avelino Azevedo after receiving his certificate of completion.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Laurie Peterka delivers a brief message to the participants, while Fédération Internationale de Volleyball instructor Avelino Azevedo listens.



NMIVA

Andrew Johnson awards a point to the team on his right side.



NMIVA

J.R. Gechig waits for the serve.



NMIVA

Fédération Internationale de Volleyball instructor Avelino Azevedo congratulates Quintin Ramsey for completing the course.



NMIVA

Fédération Internationale de Volleyball instructor Avelino Azevedo gestures during the lecture part of the course.



NMIVA

Fédération Internationale de Volleyball instructor Avelino Azevedo signs the balls given to participants of the course.



NMIVA

Fédération Internationale de Volleyball instructor Avelino Azevedo, center back row, pose with the participants of the course and Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Laurie Peterka, right back row, after completing Friday's session at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Hickson leads
Nuggets to 110-100
win over Clippers

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Colts owner Jim
Irsay has double
image in media

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28 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

20 complete v'ball referee course



Fédération Internationale de Volleyball instructor Avelino Azevedo, standing right, and NMIVA president Laurie Peterka, standing left, pose with the participants of the FIVB volleyball cooperation program referee course that concluded last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The five-day FIVB volleyball cooperation program referee course Fédération Internationale de Volleyball instructor Avelino Azevedo conducted on Saipan wrapped up last Saturday with 20 individuals receiving certificates of completion.

Tigers hand Brewers first loss



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Tigers' Rocco Reyes waits for a pitch from Tom Camacho at the bottom of the sixth inning of their game in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Azevedo handed the certificates to participants at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium after the practical session of the course last Saturday afternoon. Making the grade in the indoor volleyball referee course were Wilton Laniyo, Gabriel White, J.R. Gechig, Quintin Ramsey, Nakashima Nakashima, Chris-



tina Kim, Brianna Fajardo, Kadi Camacho, Terson Lisua, Rena Reftang, Joe Taijeron, Bonnie Bayless, Andrew Johnson, Jeane Bracken, Zena Demapan, Knohlynn Gechig, Shanna Flores, Tony Yamada, Dominic Hideo, and Billy Hinson. They also attended the lecture session of the

See 20 COMPLETE on Page 26

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There's no more undefeated team in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League, as the Tigers snapped the Brewers' winning run with a 6-4 victory in their game last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Rocco Reyes led the Tigers' upset of the Brewers, who won their first five games. Reyes, who has 0-for-3 in his first at bat, hit an RBI triple at the bottom of the eighth inning to force a deadlock, 4-all, and then stole home plate for the go-ahead run. Second baseman Jess Mesa also stole home to give the Tigers more cushion going into



the ninth and last inning.

The Tigers went on to end the final inning quickly, as first baseman Ian Rogolifo and Mesa teamed up in booting out the Brewers' first three batters. Rogolifo and Mesa caught fly balls from leadoff batter Lenny Sablan and Jun Rabauliman, respectively, and then partnered in the 4-3 put-out play against Nokki Saralu.

The Tigers handed the Brewers their first loss despite failing to score in the first four innings and facing a 0-3 deficit. The Brewers got their first run off Ton Leon Guerrero's RBI single in the second inning, while the two other runs were recorded off the Tigers' errors in

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Natural Mystic, Saipan Ice stay afloat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Natural Mystic and Saipan Ice & Water remained in contention in the 2014 MDX Amateur Radio Club Basketball League after outclassing separate foes last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Saipan Ice saw action in the curtain-raiser against MDX and bagged a 76-69 win to improve to a 2-4 record for a tie for seventh to eighth place with the Pelicans (2-4). In the second game, Natural Mystic downed IT&E, 65-59, to gain a 2-3 record for sixth place in the 10-team field. Only the Top 6 teams after the round-robin regular season will advance to the playoffs with the first two finishers drawing automatic semis berths and the last four battling for the two remaining Final Four tickets.

Dan Barcinas lifted Natural Mystic to the important win, as he scored a team-high 21 points. He and Alex Standish helped Natural Mystic keep its distance against IT&E in the fourth quarter. Barcinas nailed two triples in the fourth, while Standish drilled five of his 12 markers in the final canto.

Natural Mystic led from start



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Natural Mystic's Dan Barcinas loses the ball after drawing a foul on a San Antonio defender during their game in the MDX caging late last month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. Barcinas scored 21 points in Natural Mystic's 65-59 win over IT&E last Friday.

to finish, as IT&E tallied no more than 17 points in each of the four quarters and only Errol Peredo and Marlon De Dios broke into double figures. Peredo had a game-high 22 points, while De Dios

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